3/26 Fourth Sunday in Lent Year A

Call to Worship (Adapted from Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians)

Light always follows darkness. Always.

 “For once you were in darkness,

but now in the presence of Jesus –

you are in the light.”

Live, then, as people of the Light,

For the witness of the Light is in all things

good and right and true.

Come, light the light precede us,

and let us worship God together.

Unison Prayer (Adapted from Faith and Worship)

 For your embracing love,

 a love that sees all we are and forgives us;

 a love that sees our joys and sorrows and embraces us;

 a love that knows no ending or beginning;

 the love that could die for others and did;

 we give you thanks, present, here,

 In your light.

Reading: Psalm 23

*A David Psalm*

God, my shepherd!

 I don’t need a thing.

You have bedded me down in lush meadows,

 you find me quiet pools to drink from.

True to your word,

 you let me catch my breath

 and send me in the right direction.

Even when the way goes through

 Death Valley,

I’m not afraid

 when you walk at my side.

Your trusty shepherd’s crook

 makes me feel secure.

You serve me a six-course dinner

 right in front of my enemies.

You revive my drooping head;

 my cup brims with blessing.

Your beauty and love chase after me

 every day of my life.

I’m back home in the house of God

 for the rest of my life.

4/2 Fifth Sunday in Lent Year A Communion Sunday

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 31)

Praise God,

who has shown us the power of unfailing love,

and who from that love leads and guides us.

**We place our trust in you, God;**

**Our lives are in your love.**

Let your light and love shine upon us

As we come together in worship and praise. Amen.

Unison Prayer

 God, you know how we are.

 We forget things.

 We forget you are everywhere,

 not just where we say you are.

 We forget that no words really describe you,

 no matter how we say you are.

 Even so, you are with us, always.

 You are. Words and places aside.

 You are.

 Let us remember

 whenever we forget. Amen.

Reading: Psalm 130The Message (MSG) (Adapted)

A Pilgrim Song

Help, God—the bottom has fallen out of my life!

 God, hear my cry for help!

Listen hard! Open your ears!

 Listen to my cries for mercy.

If you, God, kept records on wrongdoings,

 who would stand a chance?

As it turns out, forgiveness is your habit,

 and that’s why you’re worshiped.

I pray to God—my life a prayer—

 and wait for what God will say and do.

My life’s on the line before God, my God,

 waiting and watching till morning,

 waiting and watching till morning.

With ISrael, wait and watch for God—

 with God’s arrival comes love,

 with God’s arrival comes generous redemption.

No doubt about it—God will redeem us,

 Redeem us back from captivity to freedom.

4/9 Palm Sunday Year A

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 31)

Blessed be the one who comes in the name of God.

 **Hosanna in the Highest!**

Again we say!

Blessed be the one who comes in the name of God.

 **Hosanna in the Highest!**

Yes!

Blessed be the one who comes in the name of God.

 **Hosanna in the Highest!**

Unison Prayer

 We stand humbly before you, O God.

 You have redeemed us all through this Christ Jesus.

 Your have reminded us that through this Christ that we are yours.

 The branches and the leaves speak out for all creation,

 “This One. Listen to this One.”

 We know you through this Jesus -

 Let us remember *to know you* for others

 As Jesus did for us.”

First Reading: Psalm 118: 1-2; 5-7a (Adapted)

 Give thanks to God, for God is good;

 God’s steadfast love endures forever!

 Let us all say,

 **“God’s steadfast love endures forever.”**

 Out of our distress we call on God;

 God answers us and sets us in a broad place.

 With God on our side we do not fear.

 What can mortals do to us?

 God is on our side to help us.

 Let us all say,

 **“God’s steadfast love endures forever.”**

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:1-11

When they neared Jerusalem, having arrived at Bethphage on Mount Olives, Jesus sent two disciples with these instructions: “Go over to the village across from you. You’ll find a donkey tethered there, her colt with her. Untie her and bring them to me. If anyone asks what you’re doing, say, ‘The Master needs them!’ He will send them with you.”

This is the full story of what was sketched earlier by the prophet:

 Tell Zion’s daughter,

 “Look, your king’s on his way,

 poised and ready, mounted

 On a donkey, on a colt,

 foal of a pack animal.”

The disciples went and did exactly what Jesus told them to do. They led the donkey and colt out, laid some of their clothes on them, and Jesus mounted. Nearly all the people in the crowd threw their garments down on the road, giving him a royal welcome. Others cut branches from the trees and threw them down as a welcome mat. Crowds went ahead and crowds followed, all of them calling out, “Hosanna to David’s son!” “Blessed is he who comes in God’s name!” “Hosanna in highest heaven!”

As he made his entrance into Jerusalem, the whole city was shaken. Unnerved, people were asking, “What’s going on here? Who is this?”

The parade crowd answered, “This is the prophet Jesus, the one from Nazareth in Galilee.”

4/16 Easter Sunday

Call to Worship

Leader: The empty tomb reminds us who we are:

**People: We are children of the resurrection!**

Leader: We are the painters of the rainbows, a colorful place of love!

**People: We are the breakers of loaves and fishes; the place where the welcoming table is set.**

Leader: We are the ones who walk with the Risen Christ.

**People: We are the people of Pentecost; fulfilled in the spirit of your.**

Leader: Yes! We are the Easter People, the people of the Risen Christ, the people – the very ones – loved by you!

**People: “Hosanna in the highest!” Thank God!**

 **“Hosanna in the Highest!”**

**ALL: Come! With exuberance and joy in our hearts, let us worship God in prayer and praise and song together! “Hosanna in the highest!” Thank God!**

 **“Hosanna in the Highest!”**

Unison Prayer

God of Love and Light,

we are in your shining and awesome presence.

We are overwhelmed by your love;

Even when we forget that is so!

Heal us, as you close the distance between you and us, please.

Open our our hearts to you and one another.

“Easter!” We say it again, “Easter!”

“Easter for all!”

Hosanna, indeed!

Assurance of Pardon [I will add this later.]

First Reading:

Colossians 3:1-4

So if you’re serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, act like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don’t shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ—that’s where the action is. See things from his perspective.

Your old life is dead. Your new life, which is your real life—even though invisible to spectators—is with Christ in God. He is your life. When Christ (your real life, remember) shows up again on this earth, you’ll show up, too—the real you, the glorious you. Meanwhile, be content with obscurity, like Christ.

Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, as the first light of the new week dawned, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to keep vigil at the tomb. Suddenly the earth reeled and rocked under their feet as God’s angel came down from heaven, came right up to where they were standing. He rolled back the stone and then sat on it. Shafts of lightning blazed from him. His garments shimmered snow-white. The guards at the tomb were scared to death. They were so frightened, they couldn’t move.

The angel spoke to the women: “There is nothing to fear here. I know you’re looking for Jesus, the One they nailed to the cross. He is not here. He was raised, just as he said. Come and look at the place where he was placed.

“Now, get on your way quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He is risen from the dead. He is going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.’ That’s the message.”

The women, deep in wonder and full of joy, lost no time in leaving the tomb. They ran to tell the disciples. Then Jesus met them, stopping them in their tracks. “Good morning!” he said. They fell to their knees, embraced his feet, and worshiped him. Jesus said, “You’re holding on to me for dear life! Don’t be frightened like that. Go tell my brothers that they are to go to Galilee, and that I’ll meet them there.”

Hymn suggestions for Lent sometime… if needed.

Communion Hymn: One Bread One Body

















