

## Wednesday March 24, 2021



**SAINT MARK**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Outline is on our website
- Theme this week: Again and Again We Draw on Courage
- Palm Sunday- last Sunday we will only be online. Reservations for Maundy Thursday/Good Friday open next Monday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at noon
- Easter Service online reservations will open Wednesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at noon.

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

The story of faith is a story of courage.

It took courage for John the Baptist to prepare the way.

It took courage for Mary to say, "Here I am. Use me."

It took courage for the disciples to drop their nets and follow Jesus.

It took courage for the paralyzed man's friends to lower him through the roof. All: It took courage for Peter to walk on water.

It took courage for Zacchaeus to give half of his possessions to the poor.

It took courage for Jesus to enter Jerusalem on a donkey.

Faith has never been easy. It is a journey of courage.

Again and again, God, show us the way.

Let us worship a brave and courageous God.

### **POEM: Peaceful Protest**

I wonder if Jesus could feel his heartbeat

In his throat, the way I do when I'm afraid.

I wonder if he had to take deep breaths,

In through his nose, out through his mouth, Tricking his body into a state of calm.

I wonder if he was nauseous, like I am

When I'm headed into a hard conversation.

I wonder if he had to summon his courage, Tucking fear away so that he could hold onto What mattered most with both hands.

I wonder, because time has taught us That it is not uncommon

For a peaceful protest

To start or end

With an unjust death.

So I wonder, Did he know?

Was he afraid? Did anyone see it?

I want to hold what matters most with both hands.

### **SCRIPTURE:** John 12:9-19- *The Message*

"Word got out among the Jews that he was back in town. The people came to take a look, not only at Jesus but also at Lazarus, who had been raised from the dead. So the high priests plotted to kill Lazarus because so many of the Jews were going over and believing in Jesus on

account of him. The next day the huge crowd that had arrived for the Feast heard that Jesus was entering Jerusalem. They broke off palm branches and went out to meet him. And they cheered: Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in God's name! Yes! The King of Israel! Jesus got a young donkey and rode it, just as the Scripture has it: No fear, Daughter Zion: See how your king comes, riding a donkey's colt The disciples didn't notice the fulfillment of many Scriptures at the time, but after Jesus was glorified, they remembered that what was written about him matched what was done to him. The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb, raising him from the dead, was there giving eyewitness accounts. It was because they had spread the word of this latest God-sign that the crowd swelled to a welcoming parade. The Pharisees took one look and threw up their hands: "It's out of control. The world's in a stampede after him."

**SONG:** "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" ELW 325

### I Want Jesus to Walk with Me



1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
 2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
 3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
 in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
 when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,  
 when my heart is al - most break - ing,  
 when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual

## **REFLECTION**

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

I refuse to believe that I am powerless.

I refuse to believe that injustice and hatred are simply the way it has to be.

I refuse to believe that I am better or more deserving than my neighbor.

I refuse to believe that my self-worth is rooted in my accomplishments or appearance.

I refuse to believe that the Church is dying, because I see God all around me.

I refuse to believe that the traditions of old are the only path for moving forward.

I refuse to believe that I cannot make a difference.

So with hope in my heart, I will strive to live a life of courage, conviction, and compassion, Just as Jesus taught us. Amen.

### **PRAYER:**

Holy God,

If we could buy our way closer to you, we'd sell everything we have.

If we could work our way to you, we'd never take a day off.

If we could walk our way to you, we'd keep our tennis shoes on tight.

But I know—we know—we cannot buy, or work, or walk our way closer to you. We must listen our way closer to you.

So holy God, as you have so often done again and again, Open our ears.

Clear out the self-talk that keeps us from you.

Dust out the negativity and distractions.

Remove any doubt hindering our way. Amen.

### **SENDING:**

God of open doors, Open arms, And open conversations,

We know Deep in our souls That you are forever inviting us in.

Again and again, You invite us to take another step closer,

Another step deeper, Another step further,

In this journey of faith. So with your invitation in our hands,

We pray for strength and wisdom. Show us the next right step in this journey.

We are here. You are here. This is holy ground.

May this holy Lenten journey begin

Once again.

Gratefully we pray,

**Amen.**