

## **SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2020 – FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

### ***Zechariah 9:9 (NRSV)***

<sup>9</sup>Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!  
Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he,  
humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

*In fulfillment of the Old Testament, on Palm Sunday Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.  
Not on a horse, as a king who was coming in a time of war.  
But on a donkey, as someone who was coming to bring peace.  
Riding on a donkey, He was also identifying with the common people.*

*Mark 11: 2 – A colt “that has never been ridden” – also Luke 19: 30  
When have you seen Jesus make a tremendous change in the life of a person who has been  
angry, disruptive, unruly, troubled, etc.?*

*On Palm Sunday Jesus was willing to have the crowds describe Him in Messianic terms –  
Mark 11: 10 - “Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!”  
John 12: 13 – “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord – the King of Israel!”*

*Luke 19: 40 – “If these were silent, the rocks would shout out”*

*Cf. Palm Sunday sermon – “A Tale of Two Donkeys” – “Shrek”*

### ***Psalms 145:8-14 (NRSV)***

<sup>8</sup>The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup>The LORD is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.

<sup>13</sup>Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all generations.

The LORD is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.

<sup>14</sup>The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

*Which of these characteristics of God are you most grateful for right now?*

*Does God’s being slow to anger help you be slow to anger?*

### ***Romans 7:15-25a (NRSV) – the reverse side of Romans 6***

<sup>15</sup>I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. . . . <sup>18</sup>I can will what is right, but I cannot do it.

<sup>19</sup>For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do.

*oldlutheran.com Romans 7: 19 dog picture frame*

<sup>20</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

*Sin is not just what I do; it is what I am. It is what I am being held captive by.*

<sup>22</sup>For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup>but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

<sup>24</sup>Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup>Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

### **Matthew 11: 28-30 (NRSV)**

<sup>28</sup>“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

*With all the crises that COVID-19, economic upheaval, and political unrest are bringing into our world, our nation, and our lives, we all are weary and carrying heavy burdens. We need rest.*

*What specific things are you doing to accept Jesus’ invitation to rest?*

*Mark 6: 31 – “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.”*

<sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

*Jesus does not just tell us what to do and then abandon us. Rather He tells us to join with Him in doing His work, and He invites us to learn from Him.*

<sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

*Easy = fits perfectly*

*The carpenter who must have made many yokes that fit perfectly invites you to take on a ministry that will fit you perfectly.*

*Cf. God to Moses – Exodus 3: 7-10 - “I have observed the misery of my people . . . I have heard their cry . . . I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them . . . So come, I will send you.”*

*Exodus 4: 10, 13 – “Oh, my Lord, I have never been eloquent . . . I am slow of speech and awkward of tongue . . . Please send someone else.”*

*Comfort Zone – Discomfort Zone/Learning and Growth Zone – Panic Zone*

*Cf. Mordecai to Esther – Esther 4: 13-14 – “Do you think that in the king’s palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews? For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father’s family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.”*

*Cf. God to Ananias re Saul/Paul – Acts 9: 15 – “Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel.”*