

Readings and Prayers for 5 July 2020: Trinity 4

Zechariah 9:9-12

This passage contains the prophecy about Jesus often read on Palm Sunday. Verse 9 provides the text for the well-known aria in Handel's Messiah.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the warhorse from Jerusalem;

and the battle-bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea,

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Psalms 145:8-15

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

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

¹⁰ All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,
and all your faithful shall bless you.

¹¹ They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom,
and tell of your power,

¹² to make known to all people your mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.

¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

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

¹⁴ The LORD upholds all who are falling,
and raises up all who are bowed down.

¹⁵ The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.

Romans 7:15-25a

Paul considers the paradox of Christians knowing that sin is evil, but being unable to avoid it.

¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.

¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it.

¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do

not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ 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. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus challenges the sophisticated to understand like children, and offers hope to those who are oppressed.

Jesus said, ¹⁶ 'But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another, ¹⁷ "We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn."

¹⁸ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon"; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.'

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

Collect

Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus you brought salvation to our wayward world: draw us into harmony with your will, that we may find all things restored in him, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Post Communion

Eternal God, comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken, you have fed us at the table of life and hope: teach us the ways of gentleness and peace, that all the world may acknowledge the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.