

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth  
Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025  
Rev. Gerry Gallant

What Shall I Say?  
Proper17  
John 12:12-36

Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

This is the day that you have made, Lord.  
**Help us to rejoice in it and be glad!**

Remind us of the privileges we enjoy as your people:  
**to come to you in these moments,  
to confess our sins,  
to receive forgiveness and give it,  
to pray and sing and listen,  
to renew our fainting spirits,  
to rest in all your promises.**

Open our eyes to see you, Lord.  
**Open our ears to hear your Word.**

Visit us through your Holy Spirit,  
**and help us to celebrate our faith. Amen.**

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Loving God, we have gathered to meet you.  
We have come to listen to you,  
to seek you, to worship you.  
You are the beginning of all things,  
the life of all things; you knew us before we were born.  
In you we become; in you we live.  
Loving God, you are here and everywhere,  
around us and within us; you know our inmost thoughts.  
In you we hope; in you we live.  
You are the source of serenity,  
giving peace that is beyond our understanding.

In you we are still; in you we live.  
 Loving God, we live in you; we worship you.  
 Loving God, you live in us; we worship you. **Amen.**

### **Children's Video**

### **Call to Confession**

Prepare the way of the Lord!  
 Let us make our confession to God.

### **Prayer of Confession**

**Merciful God,  
 we confess that we have sinned against you  
 in thought, word, and deed,  
 by what we have done,  
 and by what we have left undone.  
 We have not loved you  
 with our whole heart and mind and strength.  
 We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
 In your mercy forgive what we have been,  
 help us amend what we are,  
 and direct what we shall be,  
 so that we may delight in your will  
 and walk in your ways,  
 to the glory of your holy name.  
 Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Hear the good news!  
 The LORD is faithful in all his words,  
 and gracious in all his deeds.  
 The LORD upholds all who are falling,  
 and raises up all who are bowed down.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name  
 Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven  
 Give us this day our daily bread  
 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors  
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one  
 For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
 Forever and ever, Amen.**

### **Hymn**

**Responsive Reading****Psalm 105:1-6**

1 Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;  
make known his deeds among the peoples!

**2 Sing to him, sing praises to him;  
tell of all his wondrous works!**

3 Glory in his holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

**4 Seek the LORD and his strength;  
seek his presence continually!**

5 Remember the wondrous works that he has done,  
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

**6 O offspring of Abraham, his servant,  
children of Jacob, his chosen ones!**

**Anthem (Music Ministry)****Prayer for Illumination****Scripture****John 12:12-36****The Triumphal Entry**

<sup>12</sup> The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" <sup>14</sup> And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

<sup>15</sup> "Fear not, daughter of Zion;  
behold, your king is coming,

sitting on a donkey's colt!"

<sup>16</sup> His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. <sup>17</sup> The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. <sup>18</sup> The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. <sup>19</sup> So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."

**Some Greeks Seek Jesus**

<sup>20</sup> Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup> So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup> Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

<sup>23</sup> And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

<sup>24</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup> Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup> If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

#### **The Son of Man Must Be Lifted Up**

<sup>27</sup> “Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup> The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” <sup>30</sup> Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine. <sup>31</sup> Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. <sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup> He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die. <sup>34</sup> So the crowd answered him, “We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?” <sup>35</sup> So Jesus said to them, “The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. <sup>36</sup> While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.”

### **Sermon**

Last week, we saw Jesus spending an evening with his friends in the house of Simon the Leaper in the town of Bethany, just a few kilometers away from Jerusalem. They had gathered there in celebration of the fact that Lazarus had been raised from the dead. During that meeting we saw Mary anoint Jesus’s feet, Judas raise his concerns about the waste of the expensive nard, and Jesus defend what Mary had done, saying she had done it for the day of his burial.

We start our study today on the next day after the dinner at the house of Simon.

#### **John 12:11-15**

<sup>12</sup> The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” <sup>14</sup> And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

<sup>15</sup> “Fear not, daughter of Zion;  
behold, your king is coming,  
sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

John does not spend as much time explaining the triumphal entry into Jerusalem as the other Gospel authors. The large crowds had gathered to celebrate the Passover, the memorial feast of the exodus from Egypt and the night that their homes were passed over and their firstborn

spared by God. On that night the Jews had taken the blood of a lamb and put it upon their door posts and the cross beam above the door, and when the angel sent by the Lord saw the blood upon the door, he passed over that home leaving those inside safe from God's wrath. All those gathered to celebrate the Passover do not understand that they are about to witness the entrance of the last Passover lamb, the one whose sacrifice would eternally fulfill the blood necessary for sin.

They are gathered there watching Jesus ride into Jerusalem upon the back of a donkey, which was a fulfillment of the prophecy recorded in the book of Zechariah.

**Zechariah 9:9**

**<sup>9</sup> Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!  
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!  
Behold, your king is coming to you;  
righteous and having salvation is he,  
humble and mounted on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.**

Their cry of Hosanna which literally translates as 'save us now', is repeated over and over as Jesus rides into Jerusalem. They are calling Jesus to save them; however, their idea of his salvation is from the oppression of the Romans not the eternal salvation which he is actually there to bring for them.

Jesus riding into the city of Jerusalem was a fulfillment of Daniel prophecy that the Messiah would be cut off from the nation of Israel not for himself but as a sacrifice for the sin of the people.

When we look at this triumphant entry in the books of Matthew, Mark and Luke, we get more details of this event.

We learn that when Jesus looked upon the city he began to weep and lament.

**Luke 19:41-44**

**<sup>41</sup> And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, <sup>42</sup> saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. <sup>43</sup> For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side <sup>44</sup> and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation."**

Jesus prophesied the destruction of Jerusalem which would occur after his death and the fact that the Jewish nation would be left without a home, forced to roam the earth as people without a nation for more than two thousand years.

John also skips over how the disciples acquired the donkey. How the disciples had been told by Jesus to go into the nearby village and that they would find a young donkey tied up there, and when they did, they were to tell the owner that the Lord needs their donkey. Jesus had no need of that donkey, he could have created it if he wanted, but instead he involves the disciples and others in all that he does.

This should give us all hope, God uses donkeys for his purposes, so no matter how useless we feel, God can make use of us.

So as the people are crying out Hosanna, save us now, expecting Jesus to save them from the Romans, Jesus is weeping because he knows that they are there for all the wrong reasons, because he knows that many are not going to receive the salvation that he is about to offer them because of their own selfishness and their refusal to recognize him as the Messiah, unless he is the Messiah that they want.

John also leaves out the fact that the religious leaders were upset by the people calling out Hosanna, asking that they be told to be quiet, to which Jesus responded if they were to be silent the very stones would cry out.

Jesus is headed to Jerusalem to die, and he knows that, he is obedient to the Father's will and is fulfilling Biblical prophecy. Up until now he has been saying his time has not yet come, and now he is declaring that his time has come. He is forcing the religious leaders to act at a time when they did not want to act. The religious leaders would have preferred to kill Jesus quietly, rather than in the middle of the largest feast of the nation.

Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, a symbol of humility and peace. The King of kings on the back of a donkey, on his way to suffer torture and humiliation and then the worst death known to mankind for the sins of His people.

**John 12:16-20**

**<sup>16</sup> His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. <sup>17</sup> The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. <sup>18</sup> The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. <sup>19</sup> So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."**

His disciples did not get what was happening, they did not see the prophecies fulfilled. It is not until after he is crucified, resurrected and ascended that they begin to understand what they had lived through.

The crowds did not get what was happening, all those who had witnessed Jesus call Lazarus from the grave were there, and they did not fully understand what was happening. They had been at the supper and had witnessed Mary anoint Jesus's feet for his death and they did not foresee what was about to come. There were also those from Jerusalem who had come out from the city to see Jesus, hearing of how he had called Lazarus from the dead, others hearing of his other miracles, all coming to lay eyes upon the one that they thought would save them from the Romans.

And finally, there were the Pharisees, who were concerned, they were upset that this giant crowd of people were coming out to see Jesus as the Messiah. The words they chose are interesting, '**Look, the world has gone after him.**' They were concerned that so many people were looking to Jesus for salvation, the world has not changed, those who oppose God have not changed, they are still concerned when anyone chooses God over the world.

Then we have the gentiles.

**John 12:20-22**

**<sup>20</sup> Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup> So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup> Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.**

These Greeks were gentiles, quite possibly they were what the people called God-fearers. These were gentiles who had given up the worship of their pagan god's and begun to worship the God of Israel, however they had not yet fully committed to him.

These people come to Phillip, we have no idea why they came to Phillip, perhaps he was the friendliest, perhaps it is because he has a Greek name. They come to Philip and Phillip goes to Andrew and then they go together to Jesus.

Andrew is the disciple who is always bringing people to Jesus. Andrew brought his brother to Jesus, he brought the little boy and his lunch to Jesus in norther Galilee when they feed the five thousand, and he brings these gentiles to Jesus.

So, we see these gentiles brought to Jesus and then we see the response, we don't really get an idea of if Jesus spent any time with these gentiles at all. Instead, we are just given Jesus's answer.

**John 12:23-26**

**<sup>23</sup> And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup> Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup> If anyone serves me,**

**he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.**

Jesus starts with illustration of what is happening right now as he is going to the cross.

A grain of wheat needs to fall to the earth and die, if it doesn't die then it serves no purpose, but if it does it brings forth much life.

Jesus uses the example of a seed because it is powerful and easy for us to understand.

A seed can sit dormant for years, you can find old seeds in a jar, and they are still good, all you need to do is put them in the soil at the right time, give them some water and they will die, the seed dissolves and from it will come a plant, new life.

When a seed dies it brings forth new life. He is speaking about his own death and the fruit of salvation; he is saying that even the gentiles will be reborn if they are believers.

Jesus then explains what it means. If you love your life in this world, if you live for your life in this world, if you love the sins of this world, you will lose eternal life.

However, if you give up life in this world to follow God, you will gain eternal life.

You need to die to yourself, be transformed by the Holy Spirit, and you will bring forth fruit to the Glory of God.

That is what Jesus is speaking of here.

In verse 23 he says that the time for the Son of Man to be glorified has come. This is in direct conflict with this world. Glory in this world is found in fame, wealth and power, Jesus is saying it is not found there but instead is found in the cross.

The world is all about your life here on earth, God is about losing your life here on earth to gain eternal life.

The cross of Jesus Christ should always be the focus of our life. A reminder for us of the holiness of God, the righteousness of God, the power of God, the compassion of God and the mercy of God, the love of God. All of God's attributes are there in the sacrifice of Jesus upon the cross.

When Jesus died upon the cross, he did so to bring forth fruit for God's kingdom. His death brought a new covenant, one that invited us, the gentiles into the family of God. When we pick up our own cross as Jesus told us to do, when we follow and obey God, dying to ourselves and our own selfish focus, we too bring forth fruit for the kingdom of God.

When you die to self, you gain eternal life. When you live for yourself, you die for eternity.

When you live for Christ, when you pick up the cross and die to self, you gain honor, God will use you for his purposes.

Jesus then prays

**John 12:27-33**

**The Son of Man Must Be Lifted Up**

**<sup>27</sup> “Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’?**

**But for this purpose I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup> The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” <sup>30</sup> Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine.**

**<sup>31</sup> Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.**

**<sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup> He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die**

Jesus is troubled, he knows that he is on his way to die upon the cross and he asks what shall I say?

We should be asking ourselves the same question. Are we truly dying to ourselves, dying to the world, dying to our sins, or are we holding onto them? Are we willing to live for Christ, are we willing to die to ourselves, to give up the ways of this world and face the consequences of not going along with the world? Are we asking God to save us from the troubles brought about because of our faith or are we asking God to use us for his purpose regardless of what it causes in our lives so that we can glorify his name?

If you seek your life, you will lose it; if you lose your life, you will find it.

And a voice from Heaven speaks, after Jesus proclaims that he has come to glorify God, **‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’**

Jesus says that the voice came for them, and that in the death he is about to face upon the cross, the ruler of this world, Satan, will be cast out. When Jesus died upon the cross, he defeated the devil and the devil lost his power over all those who are true believers in Jesus as Lord and Savior, we are freed from the grasp that sin has in our lives through the power of the Holy Spirit in us.

The devil may keep coming after you, but he cannot remove you from God’s kingdom.

Jesus then speaks to how he will be crucified. He will be lifted up and the world will be drawn to him. When he is crucified, he died for the world, he died a death that paid the debt of all of mankind, and even though he died for everyone, only those who come to him, only those who

humble themselves before him, only those who pick up their own cross and die to themselves will be saved.

**John 12:34-36**

**<sup>34</sup> So the crowd answered him, “We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?” <sup>35</sup> So Jesus said to them, “The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. <sup>36</sup> While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.”**

These people who ask this question actually understood what Jesus was saying about his coming death. They knew that the Son of Man was eternal, so they are asking how can you die if you are the Messiah?

Jesus once again speaks to light. You have two choices in this world, and you only have the days of your life to decide. You can choose to walk in the light of the Word of God, or in the darkness of this world.

That is our choice in this world, walk in the world, live for ourselves, chase power, money, fame and other things of this world, give into our sinful nature and chase life in this world.

Or to walk in the light of the Lord, following and obeying the Good Shepherd in our lives, Picking up our cross and dying to our own sinful nature, handing our lives over into the hands of the Lord so that he may use us to glorify his name for his purpose as we walk as the Salt and Light of His Word in this dark and broken world.

Let us pray,

**Neighborly Love, Service and Helpfulness**

Almighty and eternal God,  
 we are poor sinners  
 and stand under your righteous judgment.  
 With all our hearts  
 we thank you for taking all our guilt from us  
 and laying it on your dear Son Christ Jesus.  
 Graciously sustain us in faith  
 and govern us by your Holy Spirit,  
 that we may live according to your will,  
 in neighborly love, service, and helpfulness,  
 and not give way to wrath or revenge,  
 that we may not incur your wrath

but always find in you a gracious Father;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
 the one true living God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Source: Veit Dietrich, d. 1549, Trinity 22

### Hymn

### Invitation to Offering

### Offering Prayer

### Closing Hymn

### Pastoral Prayer

Almighty God, gracious Father,  
 in the presence of your bounty keep us humble,  
 in the presence of all people's needs make us compassionate and caring.

Give us faith in our praying and love in our serving,  
 knowing that by your power  
 all may find a new balance in living and a new victory in adversity.

We pray for all unhappy lives,  
 those who are bitter and resentful,  
 those who are sensitive to criticism and quick to take offense,  
 those who desire their own way, whatever the inconvenience or cost to others.  
 May your judgment and mercy be for their healing.

We pray for those who are lonely,  
 who are shy and self-conscious,  
 who find it hard to make friends;  
 those who are nervous and timid,  
 who ever feel themselves strangers in a world they can scarcely understand.  
 May your presence inspire confidence and ensure companionship.

We pray for those who live with bitter regrets,  
 for loving relationships brought to ruin,  
 for opportunities freely given and woefully abused,  
 for the bitterness of defeat or betrayal at another's hand,  
 or for failure in personal integrity.  
 May your grace give new hope to find victory in the very scene of failure.

We pray for all in illness and pain,  
weary of the day and fearful of the night.  
Grant healing, if it be your will,  
and at all times through faith the gift of your indwelling peace.

Bless the company of Christ's folk, the church in every land.  
Make her eager in worship,  
fearless in proclamation of the gospel, and passionate for caring.  
Bless our country. Bless our leaders.  
Bless our children and grant us peace within our borders.  
Grant us as a nation to be found effective in establishing peace  
throughout the world.

Bless us, each one, in the communion of the saints,  
and keep us ever mindful of the great cloud of witnesses that,  
following in their steps, as they did in the steps of the Master,  
we may with them at the last receive the fulfillment promised to your people.  
We pray all this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the  
Holy Spirit as the triune God, now and forevermore. **Amen.**

### **Benediction**

May the omniscient God give you knowledge,  
the omnipotent God give you power,  
the omnipresent God give you a presence that blesses—  
so that you may share God with the world. **Amen.**