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## Hear the Word of the Lord

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# Hear the Word of the Lord

ARRANGED BY: D'ESTA LOVE

SONG SELECTIONS: ZACHARY LOVE

SCRIPTURES ARE FROM THE NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

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*Opening Song: "Here We Come to Worship"*      **Zach Love**

*Welcome and Family Events*

**Call to Worship:**

**D'Esta Love**

The writer of Matthew summarizes the ministry of Jesus in this way: "Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people" (Matt 4.23). This passage illustrates that Jesus' teaching and preaching ministry is directly connected to his healing ministry. In other words, Jesus did not just teach and preach about the kingdom, he demonstrated the good news by his acts of healing, forgiveness and mercy. This should say to us that the in-breaking of the kingdom of God into our lives is about forgiveness and healing, wholeness and compassion, righteousness and peace.

Today we will not have a sermon. Instead, we will listen to the voice of Jesus as we read from the Gospels. As our call to worship, we invite you to draw near and sit at the feet of Jesus as he is our teacher, preacher and healer.

*Prayer of Petition and the Lord's Prayer:*      **Caleb and Sophia Clanton**

**Song: "Ancient Words"**

*Hearing of the Word*

**Readers: Kim Fisher, Brad Griffin, D'Esta Love and Henry Price**

**Movement I: "And he taught them saying."**

**Brad: From Matthew's Gospel**

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy."

**Henry:** "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you." (Matt 5.3–11)

**Kim:** "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under a basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." (Matt 5.13–14)

**Brad: From Luke's Gospel**

"But I say to you that listen, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you." (Luke 6.27–31)

**D'Esta:** "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? . . . If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? . . . If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? . . . But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful just as your Father is merciful." (Luke 6.32–36)

**Henry: From Matthew's Gospel**

"Whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your father who sees in secret will reward you."

**D'Esta:** "And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your own room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you." (Matt 6.1–6; 16–18)

**Kim:** "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matt 6.19–21)

**Brad:** "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of



little faith?" (Matt 6.25–30)

**Kim:** "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be given to you as well." (Matt 6.31–33)

**Henry:** "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today." (Matt 6.34)

**Kim: From Luke's Gospel**

"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them." (Luke 12.35–37)

**Henry:** "When you give a luncheon or a dinner . . . do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." (Luke 14.12–14)

**D'Esta:** "The greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who sits at table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves." (Luke 22.25–27)

**Brad: From Mark's Gospel**

"You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many." (Mark 10.41–45)

**Song: "Open My Eyes that I May See"**

**Movement II: "Listen and understand."**

**Henry: From Matthew's Gospel**

Great crowds gathered around Jesus and he taught them many things in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it." (Matt 13.44–46)

**Kim:** "The kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'"

**D'Esta:** "Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us

some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; go to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour when the bridegroom comes.” (Matt 25.1–13)

**Henry: From Mark’s Gospel**

“With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all the shrubs, and puts forth large branches so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.” (Mark 4.30–32)

**Brad: From Luke’s Gospel**

A lawyer, wanting to justify himself, asked Jesus, “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. Then the next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The lawyer said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said, “Go and do likewise.” (Luke 10.29–37)

**Kim:** Jesus told them this parable: “What woman having ten silver coins if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” (Luke 15.8–10)

**Henry:** A great crowd gathered and he said to them in a parable: “A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. Some fell among thorns and the thorns grew with it and choked it. Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundred fold.” As he said this, he called out, “Let anyone with ears to hear listen!” (Luke 8.4–9)

**D’Esta:** “Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear; but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance.” (Luke 8.11–15)

**Song: “Lord, Speak to Me”**



**Movement III: “And he healed many of their diseases.”****D’Esta: From Luke’s Gospel**

Jesus unrolled the scroll of the book of Isaiah and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me  
because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind  
to let the oppressed go free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” (Luke 4.16–21)

**Kim:** As the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various kinds of diseases brought them to him; and he laid his hands on each of them and healed them. (Luke 4.40–42)

**Brad:** Once, when he was in one of the cities, there was a man covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he bowed with his face to the ground and begged him, “Lord if you choose, you can make me clean.” Then Jesus stretched out his hand, touched him and said, “I do choose. Be made clean.” Immediately the leprosy left him. (Luke 5.12–13)

**D’Esta: From Matthew’s Gospel**

Suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she said to herself, “If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.” Jesus turned, and seeing her said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And instantly the woman was made well. (Matt 9.20–22)

**Kim:** When Jesus entered Peter’s house, he saw his mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever; he touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she got up and began to serve him. That evening they brought to him many who were possessed with demons; and he cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick. This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah, “He took our infirmities and bore our diseases.” (Matt 8.14–17)

**Brad: From Mark’s Gospel**

When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them; and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

**D’Esta:** Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts. “Why, this is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” Jesus said to them, “Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Stand up and take your mat and walk’? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic—“I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.” And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We

have never seen anything like this!” (Mark 2.1–12)

**Kim: From Luke’s Gospel**

Soon afterwards, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and a large crowd went with him. As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother’s only son, and she was a widow . . . When the Lord saw her he had compassion for her and said to her, “Do not weep.” Then he came forward and touched the bier . . . And he said, “Young man, I say to you, rise!” The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized all the crowd and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has risen among us!” and “God has looked favorably upon his people!” (Luke 7.11–16)

**D’Esta: From John’s Gospel**

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and Martha . . . When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Jesus said to Mary and Martha, “Where have you laid Lazarus?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see. ” And Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” Then Jesus came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?”

**Henry:** So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd so that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” Then the dead man came out, his hands and his feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.” (John 11. 34–44)

**Brad:** “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.” (John 11.25–26)

**Song: “O Master Let Me Walk with Thee”**

*We Prepare to Come to the Table*

*Communion Meditation and Prayers:*

*Song during Communion: “Just As I Am”*

**Mason Marshall**

*Prayer for Offering*

**Mason Marshall**

*Closing Songs:*

*“Ancient Words”*

*“Your Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet”*

*Call to Ministry and Benediction:*

**Ron Highfield**

D’ESTA LOVE IS CO-EDITOR OF *LEAVEN JOURNAL*.