

Zion Lutheran Church



March 29th, 2023
Afternoon Service

Lent -- Week 5

PALMS and VICTORY

The pilgrims packed Jerusalem during the Feast of Passover, waving palm branches and singing praises to the donkey-riding King who came to save. Not knowing exactly how or even when He would declare His victory over His foes, the multitudes celebrated and were “altogether joyful” (Deuteronomy 16:15). We can have the same joy and gladness in our hearts today as Jesus comes to us through the promised treasures of His Word. Because we have received the full story of His saving actions for us, we are blessed to know that by His death and resurrection that week of Passover, our humble King has delivered us from our enemies—Satan, sin, and death. Let us together be “altogether joyful” in Jesus!

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- P** O Lord, open my lips,
- C** and my mouth will declare Your praise.
- P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
- C** make haste to help me, O Lord.
- C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Based on Philippians 2:1–11

- P** Lord Jesus, search our hearts and minds that we may receive Your Word, share in Your Spirit, and be renewed in our relationships with You and with one another. With humble hearts, let us pray together:
- C** Lord Jesus, the Father's only Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords, hear us as we pray.
- P** You call us to celebrate Your victory over death and the grave, but often we resign ourselves to defeat and refuse to give You our praise.
- C** Our rebellion against You in thought, word, and action is why You died for us—
- P** to forgive our sins, to redeem our lives, and to cancel the debt we owe to God.
- C** With hearts that are humble and lives ever grateful, help us to receive Your grace, bow before You in worship, and confess that You alone are Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.
- P** Almighty God our heavenly Father shows His mercy to us in the sending of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. He is the eternal King of Israel, King David's royal Son, who in the Lord's name comes to bless us with life and salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

FIRST READING -- Deuteronomy 16:13–17

“You shall keep the Feast of Booths seven days, when you have gathered in the produce from your threshing floor and your winepress. You shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant, the Levite, the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow who are within your towns. For seven days you shall keep the feast to the LORD your God at the place that the LORD will choose, because the LORD your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you will be altogether joyful.

“Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God at the place that he will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Booths. They shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed. Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God that he has given you.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING -- Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

“Therefore they are before the throne of God,
and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;
the sun shall not strike them,
nor any scorching heat.

For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of living water,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

THIRD READING -- John 7:28-39

So Jesus proclaimed, as he taught in the temple, “You know me, and you know where I come from? But I have not come of my own accord. He who sent me is true, and him you do not know. I know him, for I come from him, and he sent me.” So they were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come. Yet many of the people believed in him. They said, “When the Christ appears, will he do more signs than this man has done?”

The Pharisees heard the crowd muttering these things about him, and the chief priests and Pharisees sent officers to arrest him. Jesus then said, “I will be with you a little longer, and then I am going to him who sent me. You will seek me and you will not find me. Where I am you cannot come.” The Jews said to one another, “Where does this man intend to go that we will not find him? Does he intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks? What does he mean by saying, ‘You will seek me and you will not find me,’ and, ‘Where I am you cannot come’?”

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY

P: Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C: **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

P: In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.

C: **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

P: Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C: **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

SERMON

KYRIE

C: Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank You for blessing us with the opportunity to meditate again on the cross of Christ and receive Your promised treasures.

C **Grant that the message of the Lamb of God slain for our salvation brings us the riches of Your pardon and peace.**

P Lead us to see that our sins caused Jesus' great agony in the garden, that our sins nailed Him to the cross of Calvary,

C **that He was forsaken by His Father so that we might never be forsaken, and that He died so that we may live.**

P Lord Jesus, grant that especially during this sacred season the treasured story of Your wondrous love for us would draw us closer to You.

C **Inspire us by the palm-waving pilgrims who sang Your praises as You entered Jerusalem. Enter our lives that we may have victory in You amid the pain and adversity of this world.**

- P** Holy Spirit, lift up troubled souls everywhere. Grant wholeness to those hurting in heart, body, and mind. Work Your healing power in the lives of those in need, [*especially . . .*], and in the lives of all we name before You in our hearts.
- C** **All glory, honor, and praise be to You, with the Father and the Son, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

- C** **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 trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.
Amen.**

- P** In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, at His command, and with His own words, we receive His testament:

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

DISTRIBUTION

If you are visiting us today from a Christian denomination outside the Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod, we welcome you to come to the altar to receive a baptismal blessing. Please signify by crossing your arms over your chest upon kneeling.

COLLECTS

P: O Lord, hear my prayer.

C: **And let my cry come to You.**

P: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

P: The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **Amen.**

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