

Zion Lutheran Church



First Midweek Lent
February 17th, 2016

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church!

How could the crowd shout “Hosanna!” on Sunday and “Crucify him!” on Friday? What did Jesus do in Jerusalem during the week leading up to his death (and resurrection)? This evening, our Lenten Midweek Series begins, as we take a look at what Jesus did between “Palm Sunday” and “Good Friday.” All four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) spend a disproportionate amount of time focusing on what Jesus did during the week leading up to his crucifixion. Matthew spends seven chapters, Mark five, Luke five, and John eight. But other than Palm Sunday and the institution of the Lord’s Supper, do you know what Jesus did during that week?

We are going to limit our study to the events recorded in the Gospel of Matthew, as it would simply be too much to try to cover all twenty-five chapters of material in six twenty(ish) minute sermons. And so, this evening, we are going to begin where the week begins, “Palm Sunday.” But should we call it that? After all, even though all four gospels record Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem, only one of them makes mention of palm branches. OK, then, maybe we should call it the “Triumphal Entry”? But of the two crowds gathered in Jerusalem, only one sings Jesus’ praise; and Jesus himself has said on three different occasions that the reason why he was coming into Jerusalem was not to conquer it, but to suffer and die at the hands of the authorities.

I hope you are looking forward to spending time together in God’s Word over the next six weeks, as together we take a look at what Jesus said and did in the week leading up to his crucifixion. There’s a lot to learn, and even more to live by.

God bless your time in worship!
-Pastor Duncan

Rev. Duncan McLellan, Pastor

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Service of the Word

The Prelude

Hymn-Sing

Announcements

(please stand)

Opening Hymn: Hymn Sing

The Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

The Absolution

The Prayers

Pastor: ...Lord, in your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

The Psalm of the Day: Psalm 47

Clap your hands, all peoples!

Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared,

a great king over all the earth.

He subdued peoples under us,

and nations under our feet.

He chose our heritage for us,

the pride of Jacob whom he loves. Selah

God has gone up with a shout,

the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

Sing praises to God, sing praises!

Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

For God is the King of all the earth;

sing praises with a psalm! [a]

God reigns over the nations;

God sits on his holy throne.

The princes of the peoples gather

as the people of the God of Abraham.

For the shields of the earth belong to God;

he is highly exalted!

Pastor: **This is the Word of the Lord.**

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:1-17

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'"

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you make it a den of robbers."

And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them. But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant, and they said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, "'Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise'?"

And leaving them, he went out of the city to Bethany and lodged there.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Hymn: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

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Sermon

The Offering

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Pastor: Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: Amen!

The Recessional: We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died

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The Postlude

† *Service Participants* †

Pastor:	Rev. Duncan McLellan
Organist:	Sandra Quinlan
Elders:	Paul Klemash & Shane Bryant
Acolyte	Elder
Ushers:	Melanie Becker, Bill Becker, Shane Bryant, Michael Kozak, Vince Kimberland, Bill Koester, Loren Ludeman, Richard Quinlan
Altar Guild:	Janet, Marian & Molly Oelschlager

Tonight's sermon will not be posted until this coming weekend,
sorry for any inconvenience.