

## **April 13 Worship**

### **Palm Sunday**

**Greeters- Corinne Rainville, Nancy Rogers**

**Readers- Aaron Hopkins, Sophie Hopkins**

### **Announcements/Joys-**

**Time Of Quiet Meditation-** *“And the crowds that went before him and that followed him shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”* Matthew 21:9

**Opening Scripture-** Isaiah 50:4-9(page 631)

**Opening Chorus-** 220- Hosanna, Loud Hosanna(1st verse)

### **Responsive Call To Worship-**

Leader: Open for me the gates where the righteous enter,

**People: We will enter and give thanks to the Lord!**

Leader: We give you thanks for You have answered us;

**People: You have become our salvation!**

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

**People: God’s faithful love endures forever.**

**Hymn-** 4- All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name

**Unison Prayer-** Loving God, giver of all light and life, you sent Jesus Christ into the world not to condemn, but to save. Help us to lift up the light of Christ so that the world might believe in him and receive the gift of eternal life; through Christ, the light of the world, who taught us to pray, saying...*Lord's Prayer*...

**Gloria Patri-** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,

World without end. Amen, Amen.

**Old Testament Scripture-** Psalm 118:19-29(page 531-532)

### **Special Music-**

**Gospel Scripture-** Luke 19:28-40(page 913)

**Children's Time-** Washing of the feet/ 2025 Confirmation Class\*

**Echo Prayer/Passing of the Peace**

**Hymn-** 218- All Glory Laud And Honor

**New Testament Scripture-** Philippians 2:5-11(page 1023)

## Message

### *“Beginning or End?”*

Today is Palm Sunday, the day when we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Jesus was coming close to fulfilling His destiny to suffer and die on a cross as was prophesied in scripture. His journey had taken Him from Bethlehem to Jerusalem, exactly as had been foretold. What we now call “Holy Week” had begun. The end of His life, here on earth, was only 5 days away. We all know the story of Jesus entering the city on the back of a donkey and how the people cheered and laid down palm branches to honor the arrival of the “Messiah,” the Savior of the Jews. The same crowds that so joyfully welcomed Him would be calling for His death in less than a week.

450-500 years before this event, the prophet Zechariah had prophesied the day; “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on an ass, on a colt the foal of an ass.(Zechariah 9:9) It's too bad that the people did not fully understand just what the prophecy meant. The people of Israel had misinterpreted the scriptures by looking for a Messiah who would rescue them politically and free them as a nation from the grips of the Romans and whoever else who would enslave them. They overlooked the parts that explained that Jesus was here to save them spiritually. To Jesus, humanities primary need was spiritual, not political, cultural or national salvation. The only way to be free from earthly problems was to come to pass with God's Holy Kingdom.

The people in the time of Jesus missed the true reason for Jesus' presence. They did not understand the meaning of the cross. They could not conceive of God's purpose in the sacrifice of His Son because they had no desire to look beyond their immediate concerns. They only cared about here and now. After 2,000 years things have not changed very much. We are all guilty of spending most of our time dealing with day- to- day problems and trying to figure out how to cope. The choice to give our problems to Jesus is not on the top of our list of what to do now. We are so determined to make our lives here on earth the best we can possibly make them, we overlook God's desire for us to prepare for His heavenly kingdom. When we pray, we ask God to help us solve problems that are usually caused by our own hands. God will answer our prayers even though we may not like the answer. What we want is not always what God gives us. We can be sure, however, that God's answer is the right one.

The ministry of Jesus, that is the time that He spent teaching, only encompasses 3 years. In that short time, He made many promises about how God helps us. The great majority of these promises do not address earthly concerns. Even when we ask for help in dire circumstances, God does not promise to fix everything, He promises us help in dealing with our problems. We tend to make our difficulties worse by not seeing that our problems are not the end of the world, they actually may be the beginning of a better existence. Let's take a look at some of the many promises that Jesus made to us.

Jesus promised rest; “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30)

Jesus promised abundant life to those who follow Him; “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10)

Jesus promised eternal life to those who trust Him; “but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” (John 4:14) He also promised to hold us securely; “and I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand.” (John 10:28)

Jesus promised His disciples power from on high; “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samar’ia and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

Jesus promised that He will return for us; “In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.” (John 14:2-3) From then on, we will be with Him always.

We could spend all day discovering the promises that have come from God through Christ. Each and every promise find its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ; “For all the promises of God find are Yes in him. That is why we utter the Amen through him, to the glory of God.” (2 Corinthians 1:20)

As we begin Holy Week, let's not lose sight of the real meaning behind all the events. The things that happened to Jesus during these few days do not signify the end of anything, they show us the promise of the future as long as we gain an understanding of God's promises. Do not make the mistake of limiting God's presence to only our worldly situation. The best part of following Jesus Christ is yet to come, but it will come. There are going to be good times and bad times and God is in control of both. The end of our lives here on earth is just the beginning of eternity with God. Praise be to God. Amen.

**Prayers of People/Prayer-** O Jesus, You are the King of Glory, You are the Lord of Lords, and King of Kings. We pray that your Kingdom will reign forever in our hearts and in this world. Lord, we pray for your Kingdom to come here now, bringing a kingdom of justice, righteousness, hope, love, peace, mercy and grace for all. Lord, we ask that you rule in our hearts, lead in this world and govern over your kingdom. But Lord honestly, we often have our own plans and agendas and we want to be rulers of our world. Forgive us for those times, and Lord we live in a time that would rather idolize the King of Pop than worship you. Help us to know how to live as your Kingdom People in these times. And Lord , there are a lot of Kings in this world who terrorize, over tax, humiliate, over exploit, and abuse those they are to lead. Help us to spread the good news of the different kind of King you are. Lord, thank you for being a different kind of King. Thank you for your goodness and kindness in our lives. Thank you for your generosity. Thank you for loving us. Thank you for your Kingdom that is unlike any Kingdom in this world. In the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Closing Hymn-** 228- The Old Rugged Cross

**Benediction-** Blessed is the one who comes to us by the way of love poured out with abandon. Blessed is the one who walks toward us by the way of grace that holds us fast. Blessed is the one who calls us to follow in the way of blessing, in the path of joy. We go in peace to serve the Lord. Amen.

## **\*Washing of the Disciples Feet**

**Narrator-** It was now the day before the Passover festival. Jesus and his disciples were at supper. So Jesus rose from the table, took off his outer garment, and tied a towel around his waist. Then Jesus poured some water into a washbasin and began to wash the disciples feet and dry them with the towel around his waist. Jesus came to Simon Peter, who said to him: "Are you going to wash my feet, Lord?" Jesus answered Peter; "You do not understand now what I am doing, but you will understand later." Peter declared: "Never at any time will you wash my feet!" Jesus answered: "If I do not wash your feet, you will no longer be my disciple." Simon Peter answered: "Lord, do not only wash my feet then! Wash my hands and head too!" Jesus said: "Anyone who has taken a bath is completely clean and does not have to wash other than the feet." After washing their feet, Jesus put the outer garment back on, returned to his place at the table, and said: "Do you understand what I have just done to you? You call me Lord, and it is right that you do so, because that is what I am. I, your Lord and Teacher, have just washed your feet. You, then, should wash one another's feet. I have set an example for you, so that you will do just what I have done for you. I am telling you the truth: No slave is greater than the master who is served, and no messenger is greater than the one who sends the message. Now that you know this truth, how happy you will be if you put it into practice."

**Prayer:** Lord Christ, you remain, unseen at our side, present like a poor man who washes the feet of his friends. And we, to follow in your footsteps, we are here, waiting for you to suggest signs of sharing to make us into servants of your gospel. Amen.