

BLESSED SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Thursday, April 2nd

Sunday, April 5th

An outline of today's sermon:

“Coming to be your King – John 12:9-16”

1. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.
2. The people greeted Jesus with palm branches and praise.
3. What kind of king did they want?
4. But Jesus came as a servant king.
5. Jesus came to serve and save us.
6. Where is Jesus' kingdom?
7. Jesus is the king we need for now and for eternity.

For further reading and for family discussion:

Psalm 118:25-26, Zechariah 9:9, John 18:36, 2 Timothy 4:18, 2 Peter 1:10-11, Revelation 11:15.

PALM SUNDAY / SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

The Cross and Passion of Our Lord Are the Hour of His Glory

“Behold, your King is coming to you . . . humble and mounted on a donkey” (Zech. 9:9–12; Mt. 21:1–9). Our Lord rides in this humble fashion because He is entering Jerusalem to humble Himself even to the point of death on a cross (Phil. 2:5–11). His kingly crown will not be made of gold but of thorns, the sign of sin’s curse. For His royal reign is displayed in bearing this curse for His people, saving us from our enemies by sacrificing His own life. The sinless One takes the place of the sinner so that the sinner can be freed and bear the name “Barabbas,” “son of the Father” (Matthew 26 and 27). It is at the name of this exalted Savior, Jesus, that we bow in humble faith. With the centurion who declared, “Truly this was the Son of God!” (Mt. 27:54), we are also given to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Phil. 2:11)

Readings

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 50:4–9a

⁴The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of those who are taught,
that I may know how to sustain with a word
him who is weary.
Morning by morning he awakens;
he awakens my ear
to hear as those who are taught.
⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I turned not backward.
⁶I gave my back to those who strike,
and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard;
I hid not my face
from disgrace and spitting.
⁷But the Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like a flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame.
⁸He who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who is my adversary?
Let him come near to me.
⁹Behold, the Lord GOD helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Psalm

Psalm 118:19–29

¹⁹Open to me the gates of | righteousness,*
that I may enter through them
and give thanks | to the LORD.
²⁰This is the gate | of the LORD;*
the righteous shall enter | through it.
²¹I thank you that you have | answered me*
and have become my sal- | vation.
²²The stone that the builders re- | jected*
has become the | cornerstone.
²³This is the LORD's | doing;*
it is marvelous | in our eyes.
²⁴This is the day that the | LORD has made;*
let us rejoice and be | glad in it.
²⁵Save us, we pray, | O LORD!*
O LORD, we pray, give | us success!

²⁶Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the LORD!*

We bless you from the house | of the LORD.

²⁷The LORD is God,

and he has made his light to shine up- | on us.*

Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,

up to the horns of the | altar!

²⁸You are my God, and I will give | thanks to you;*

you are my God; I will ex- | tol you.

²⁹Oh give thanks to the LORD, for | he is good;*

for his steadfast love endures for- | ever!

Epistle

Philippians 2:5–11

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Verse of the Day

He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Holy Gospel

John 12:20–43

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. ²¹So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Truly, 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. ²⁵Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶If 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.

²⁷"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. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to show by what kind of

death he was going to die. ³⁴So 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?" ³⁵So 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. ³⁶While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light."

When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them. ³⁷Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, ³⁸so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

"Lord, who has believed what he heard from us,
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?"

³⁹Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said,

⁴⁰"He has blinded their eyes
and hardened their heart,
lest they see with their eyes,
and understand with their heart, and turn,
and I would heal them."

⁴¹Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him. ⁴²Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

CHARITABLE INFORMATION

SPECIAL MISSIONS: this quarter's special missions contribution will bring aide to several organizations that help the underprivileged of our state. Homeless, veterans who have fallen on hard times and other marginalized of our society will all benefit physically and spiritually from out gifts.

CHURCH INFORMATION

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS: how to designate your Thrivent choice dollars to a Charitable Organization – Thrivent staff can HELP you every step of the way in designating your Thrivent Choice dollars to a charitable organization. 1) Call **1-800-847-4836** and say "THRIVENT CHOICE" and follow the directions. 2) If you have your Thrivent ID, tell them what it is. If not, that isn't a problem – go to step 3. 3) Your **DATE OF BIRTH**. 4) Tell them you want to designate your Thrivent Choice dollars. There are many organizations that are eligible. 5) If you want to designate them for Helping Hands our full name is **Helping Hands Eastern European Ministries**, state that. They'll have the ID number and everything else needed to process it.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSIONS

(In order to protect the privacy of our members, no names will be mentioned in our prayers)

Special intercessions: please pray for all health care workers in America and the world

We continue to pray for those who are in need of medical attention.

We also remember in our prayers the friends and relatives of our members.

We pray the Lord to watch over those who are serving in the military.