

Sermon Matthew 21 1 11 + Holy Week 2012

Sermon: Palm Sunday

Text: Matthew 21:1-11(v.5): “See, your King comes to you!”

Theme: Your King comes to you

Goal: The King comes and establishes His kingdom by His Word

Dear Friends,

The general theme of our Holy Week Celebration is THE KINGDOM OF GOD. Luther explains that *God's Kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His Holy Word and lead godly life here in time and there in eternity.* Without God's Word and without the blessing of the Holy Spirit we cannot be citizens of God's Kingdom. The Holy Spirit calls us by the Gospel, enlightens us with His gifts, sanctifies and keeps us in the true faith.

Jesus is the Word that became flesh. When He entered Jerusalem, He was recognized as the Prophet and King, “who comes in the name of the Lord,” and was praised as “The Son of David”, the King. The living Word of God came to His people! (John 1:11,14).

Jesus still comes to us as our King by His Word and the Sacraments today in this Service. We have His Word read and preached. We have Communion: God's Word + bread and vine. We have the baptism of little Aileene Isabella: God's Word + water. Jesus is manifesting His love and His Kingdom among us today again, as He always does in our Services. He doesn't want anyone to be left outside His Kingdom. He invites and accepts everyone who believes in Him as his Savior and King.

May this Service glorify the Son of David: HOSANNA to the King!
May this Service call more people to His Kingdom of Grace. Hosanna to the King! May this Service strengthen us to live *a godly life here in time and there in eternity.* Hosanna to the king! Amen.

Sermon: Maundy Thursday

Text: Matthew 26:17-20, 26-30 (v.29): “I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I will drink it anew with you in my Father's Kingdom.”

Theme: The Feast in the Father's Kingdom

Goal: The Communion is a foretaste of the heavenly banquet

Dear Friends,

“How good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters live together in unity” (Psalm 133:1). The Lord's Supper is also called Communion because we partake in the communion with God by the body and blood of Jesus, and we partake in the fellowship with our brothers and sisters under the blessings of our King and Saviour Jesus.

The Lord's Supper is also an anticipation of the meal God has prepared to us in heaven. One Liturgy sings: *Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come, when all creation shares this feasts with You.*

When Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper, he promised to His disciples: “I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I will drink it anew *with you* in my Father's Kingdom.” What a promise! What a hope! What a blessing! The King comes to us in the Sacrament and gives Himself to us, His Body and Blood for forgiveness of our sins; and He promises that He will sit with us to feast in His Father's Kingdom!

The Kingdom of God begins here in time and has it's accomplishment in heaven. We are here in His Kingdom of Grace, ruled by His Word and the Sacraments. There we will be in His Kingdom of Glory, with all the angels and all the saints - our forefathers who have fallen asleep in the true faith.

Lets celebrate the Lord's Supper as a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. “Come, for everything is now ready” (Luke 14:17). Amen.

Sermon: Good Friday

Text: Luke 23:26-43 (v. 42-43): “Then he said: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. Jesus answered him, I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Theme: Sinners in God's Kingdom?

Goal: Forgiven sinners are citizens of God's kingdom

Dear Friends,

Do you think that only saints are citizens of God's Kingdom? Are you a saint?...

The criminals on the cross beside Jesus were among the worst people of the society. To be condemned to death on a cross was reserved only for serious criminals. Even so, one of them received the promise of Jesus: “Today you will be with me in paradise!” How can it be? Are sinners entering the kingdom of God? Even big sinners?

Yes, certainly! The apostle Paul confesses: “Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am the worst!... The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.” (1 Timothy 1:15,14).

One of the two criminals experienced God's grace. No one deserves by himself to enter the Kingdom of God. As it happened to the criminal and with the Apostle Paul, it happens to each of us as well. God is gracious to sinners, calls them to repentance and to faith, and forgives our sins, promising His Kingdom. Forgiven sinners are the citizens of God's kingdom. Forgiven sinners are now saints in the eyes of God, because they are covered by the justice and righteousness of Christ.

The promise of Jesus belongs to us forgiven sinners too: “You will be with me in paradise.” Amen.

Sermon: Easter (Rev. Robert Fischer)

Pastor Carlos Walter Winterle
Cape Town, 01 April 2012