

Palm Sunday/ Passion Sunday

4-10-2022

J.V. Trautwein, Pastor

Celebrate (Introduction)

“Today we follow Christ from triumphal entry to the cross, each waypoint of the journey marked by Jesus compassion for those who would betray, mock, accuse, or do violence to him. Though persecuted and beaten, Jesus the Son of God is not disgraced; instead, he asks forgiveness for those who put him to death. We have walked the Lenten pathway these forty days, each of us invited through baptism to ‘let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.’ We enter this holy week accompanying Jesus to the cross with both grief and thanksgiving in our hearts, trusting in God’s redeeming love.”

We come together in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Opening Hymn: [“Ride On, Ride on In Majesty”](#)

Psalmody: Psalm 31:9-16

“Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress;
my eye is wasted from grief,
my soul and my body also.

¹⁰ For my life is spent with sorrow,
and my years with sighing;
my strength fails because of my misery,¹⁰
and my bones waste away.

¹¹ I am the scorn of all my adversaries,
a horror¹¹ to my neighbors,
an object of dread to my acquaintances;
those who see me in the street flee from me.

¹² I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;
I have become like a broken vessel.

¹³ Yea, I hear the whispering of many—
terror on every side!—
as they scheme together against me,
as they plot to take my life.

¹⁴ But I trust in thee, O Lord,
I say, “Thou art my God.”

¹⁵ My times are in thy hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors!

¹⁶ Let thy face shine on thy servant;
save me in thy steadfast love!”

Hymn of Praise: [“All Hail the Power of Jesus Name!”](#)

Prayer of the Day

“Lord God, Grant us grace to follow our lord in the way of the cross, so that , joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.. Amen.”

1st Reading: [Isaiah 50:4-9a](#)

2nd Reading: [Philippians 2:5-11](#)

The Gospel: [Luke 19:28-40](#)

Hymn: [“Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart”](#)

The Message: ([Audio Recording](#))

In my lifetime I have been involved in planning many different kinds of events. For the most part the success is directly attributed to the planning and publicity which involves many hours devoted to every detail. Even with all this there may not be the successful outcome that we may wish. With that being said, I also have noted throughout my many years that there have been exceptions to that rule. There are those oddities in life which seem to go beyond all reason. There have been some of the most successful events which have been spontaneous. There seemed to be little in the way of foreknowledge but just suddenly occurred.

I can remember one Christmas Eve service when I was at Augsburg. It was somewhat different then we have been doing but it featured a lot of carol singing also. Instead of the Christmas log and candles, the Christmas story was emphasized by banners representing the nativity. The children brought forth a banner at the appropriate time. That meant there would be times of silence during their presentation followed by a carol. Towards the end there was a period of unusual silence. That is when one of the women began to sing a carol which was not scheduled, “Go tell it on the Mountain”. Being African America there was no denying their heritage. She would sing the verse and the congregation joined in with the refrain. I never knew there were so many verses to that carol. But it was an unexpected happening which brought the Christmas Eve service alive and an experience I will never forget. I know also the members saw this as a highlight of that Christmas Eve service. The spontaneity is something which I could never have planned for it came with the moment.

We see this kind of spontaneity with the flash performance which suddenly appear at unexpected times and places. Usually these begin with one performer with the gradual adding of additional performer until the total ensemble eventually joining in reaching a powerful conclusion. All of a sudden the casual audience gathers and become totally engrossed with the experience. It is these moments which bring a special experience of joy and are remembered the most.

Spontaneity, so many times makes an event successful and memorable simply because it was not expected. It calls for the personal involvement of people and thus they contribute of themselves. Often they are no longer a spectator but are an actual participant which makes it a success.

Many centuries ago we saw an event of spontaneity. This event had some preplanning. Jesus had planned His entry into the great city of Jerusalem in order to celebrate the feast of the Passover. He had prearranged to borrow a donkey or colt. Jesus had even preplanned the passwords words to be spoken by his disciples so that the owner would release it to them, "The Lord needs it." The preparation continued with His disciples placing their cloaks on the colt for Jesus to sit upon. All was now ready for His entry into the city.

Thousands of pilgrims had traveled to the Holy City in order to celebrate the Passover and pay their Temple tax as well as to offer sacrificial offerings. Much was happening with these pilgrims. There was excitement in the air, not only because of the annual celebration but also because word had been spreading about Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. As a result this itinerant preacher from the backwoods of Galilee became the hope that He was the long awaited Messiah. They thought that this was the moment that they had been awaiting for centuries.

When they had heard that Jesus and His disciples were traveling on the road to Jerusalem, excitement built up. Many got caught up in the spontaneity of the moment. They cut branches and palms from surrounding trees, excitedly waved them in the air and spread them along the road. The outpouring was not planned but just happened. As Mark relates, they shouted "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord." Again and again they shouted these words of exuberance.

There was little doubt that they had become a vital part of this spontaneous event. It was a moment that they wouldn't forget and they didn't. This event was recorded in all four gospels. Although this euphoric moment would be ended for the many participant within just a few short days, the participants probable never forget the moment of hope which they experienced. The strange thing is, although such events remain with us, many time these spontaneous events are momentary in their joyful experience but are pushed into the recesses of our minds.

Back in 1976 and the celebration of the bicentennial, there was perhaps the biggest spontaneous event in Baltimore's history. This was when the tall ships from around the world graced the waterfront. Hundreds of thousand participated in this event of a lifetime. Even though it was a great success many people never return to the waterfront even when there were other times tall ships graced the harbor. The sharing of lives caught up in the spontaneity of awe and wonder never seemed to return. That living spirit just remains a memory.

To those involved in the awe and excitement of the "Hosannas" during Jesus entrance into Jerusalem turned into misgivings about this so-called Messiah. Therefore, to those participants

there was only a spontaneous commitment to that moment. There was no commitment to understand this Kingdom of God proclaimed by Jesus. There was no commitment to understand the real message of Jesus. They only sought to be on the bandwagon and perhaps be a part of the privileged few of a new political kingdom.

Basically they were after something for nothing. It is so sad that such pursuits took over their lives. It is so sad that the failure of their worldly pursuits led them quickly to change their "Hosannas" to "Crucify Him, Crucify Him!" It is so sad that we too often fall prey to the same. It is sad because we at times let misunderstandings of this Jesus take control of our lives. Even with the perspective of the cross and the resurrection many fail to get beyond the triumphal entry of misconceptions and spontaneous emotional experiences. These misconceptions keep us from realizing Paul's words, "Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name/so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Even though today we are celebrating Jesus Triumphant entry of some 2,000 years ago we continue to follow along for the journey to the cross and resurrection is very much a part of our lives. Each day we follow along with knowing the joy of God's eternal love. Although we at times may want to jump ship, God never abandons us and is always reaching out saying come on board. So with the palms let us always remember that we are a vital part of that parade and the life guided by the culmination of the parade the cross and the Resurrection.

This morning we had the joy in participating in Parker's confirmation of his baptismal vows. After weeks of classes and witnesses by the Brackbills, Ed Hawkins, Angela, and myself, Parker decided to join the unending parade. Parker, you well know to be a participant in this parade is not the easiest parade to be caught up in. But always remember that this parade is full of love which you must always share. Like no other parade which always has an ending this parade never end for it goes on forever in God's love. We welcome you and look forward to your active participation in the Body of Christ. Also remember the members of the Body of Christ are there to help you along the way

Therefore along with Parker we all shout for joy, "Hosanna" "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."

Anthem: ["The Holy City" Agne G](#)

Offering*: ([On-Line giving Link](#))

We give thee but thine own, what e'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

The Prayer

Eternal Father, today we are in remembrance of the day Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem to the shouts of “Hosanna,” In remembering this day may our “Hosannas” turn into a statement of a lifetime of commitment to the life your Son lived and died for. We continually pray those who are suffering so much as a result of the war in the Ukraine. May justice and peace enter the lives of who perpetrated this tragedy so that life may return to those who are the victims.

We pray for all who need your comforting and healing presence especially Bob and Pat Allen, Eugene Ash, Pam Ash, Heidi Brackbill, Parker Brennan, the Cronin family, Leo Dickel, Dotty Gibson, Nancy Griebel, the Johnson Family, Robert Karner, David Kieffer, Pam Lambert, Charles Larsen, Donna Mayhew, the McNamara family, Wendy Neumann, Elise Oliver, Peter Olsen, Brenda Penyak, Dottie Reitz, Robert Reitz, Colin Shea, Jerry Shea, Jack Smith, the Spiegler family, Esther and Buck Trautwein,, Pastor Jack,
We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen

The Lord’s Prayer

The Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you;
The Lord lift up His presence upon you and give you peace. Amen

And now my brothers and sisters
Live on knowing God’s love,
The joy of living this life of love,
And the peace which only comes through the power of His presence within you.
So live on in Love, Joy, Peace, and Power.

Closing Hymn: [“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”](#)

Announcements

Easter lilies for the altar are \$10.00. See Debbie Fultz
Easter Sunday, April 17
Sunrise Service Fell’s Point Pier, 6:00 AM
Celebration of the Resurrection, 9:30 AM at Epiphany
Sunday April 24, Retirement Service of Pastor Jack Trautwein

*Offering to be sent to
Robert Brackbill
10274 Raleigh Tavern Lane0
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Epiphany Lutheran Church

9122 Sybert Drive

Columbia Hills

Ellicott City, MD 21043

<https://www.epiphanylutherancolumbia.org>

Please note that you now have the opportunity of online giving with the link found after the offering designation or here: https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291