

Palmarum
St. Matthew 21:1-9
April 10th, 2022
Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, UAC
Simpsonville, SC
St. Michael and All Angels Evangelical Lutheran Mission, UAC
Martinez, GA
Pastor Jerald Dulas

A Very Great Multitude

In Nomine Iesu!

In the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer in Pulpit before Sermon:

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Almighty, Who for our sakes didst humble Thyself and take upon Thee the form of a servant, we beseech Thee, govern us by Thy Holy Spirit, that we may not be offended at Thy lowliness, but heartily believe that by Thy obedience even unto the death of the cross Thou hast redeemed us from the wrath of God and from eternal death; and keep us steadfast in such faith and in Christian humility, that we also may finally be exalted with Thee and made partakers of Thy glory, Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever One God, world without end. Amen.

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior + Jesus Christ. Amen.

My dearly beloved saints, we have come to the beginning of another Holy Week. We will follow our Lord to His redemption of mankind in the Scripture readings that we get to hear all this week. Today, we join the very great multitude of those who begin this procession with the Lord + Jesus to His cross. We begin Holy Week by processing with the very great crowds as our Lord + Jesus enters into the city of King David, the city of peace, the city of Jerusalem. In this city where King David placed his throne, and where his son Solomon built the temple of the Lord God, our Lord + Jesus enters triumphantly to the shouts and exclamations of the very great multitude singing, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord! Hosanna in the Highest!" The procession of our Lord is accompanied with the crowds carrying, waving, and laying palm and olive branches before our Lord's procession into the city of Jerusalem.

We have also joined in this procession of our Lord as we carried our palm branches and sang, "All Glory, Laud and Honor." All glory, laud and honor belong to our Lord for what He has done for us poor sinners. Holy Week begins with reflections of the Resurrection of our Lord. It begins with a reflection of the joyous celebration that we will enjoy as we sing and give praise to our Lord for His death and resurrection when we enter into the eternal realms of Heaven. This reflection of Heaven is sung by us and the very great multitude in the words that they shouted on the first *Dominica Palmarum*, the first Lord's Day of the Palms. On the first Palm Sunday the very great multitude sang the words from Psalm 118. This Psalm is the psalm appointed for the Feast of the Resurrection. It proclaims that the Day of our Lord's resurrection is the Day which our Lord hast made. In that day of resurrection; in our Lord's triumph over sin and death, we will rejoice and be glad in it.

The words from Psalm 118 with which the crowds sing and praise our Lord are the same words that we sing and praise our Lord every Sunday—every mini-remembrance and observance of the day of our Lord's resurrection—in the words of the *Sanctus*. "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He

Who comes in the Name of the Lord! Hosanna in the Highest!" Hosanna means "Save now." These words come from verse 25-26 of Psalm 118, "Save now, I pray, O LORD; O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!" This psalm is a messianic psalm. It is a psalm that prophesies about the coming of the Anointed One of the Lord God; it prophesies of the Messiah, the Christ, the Anointed One. That the very great multitude sings this song of praise to the Lord + Jesus means they understood Him to be the Messiah.

When we sing those words in the Sanctus, we understand our Lord + Jesus to be the Christ, the Messiah, the Anointed One of God, Who has come down to Earth to fulfill the Law of God for us and has suffered and died on the tree of the holy cross for all of our sins. That this song is connected to the Lord's Supper gives it an even greater meaning, for it means that we understand by this song of Praise—the Sanctus—that our Lord + Jesus, our Messiah, is coming to us in His Body and Blood in the Blessed Sacrament. Our Lord is coming to us in His Body and Blood and the victor over sin and death to give to us forgiveness and remission of all our sins by the means of bread and wine.

Therefore, when we process to this altar, we follow our Lord to the place where He wins salvation for us all. Like the very great multitude that sang the praise of our Lord + Jesus on the first Palm Sunday, we sing our Lord's praise today as we carry our palm branches and process to this altar to meet and receive our Lord + Jesus in His Body and Blood in bread and wine. He comes triumphantly to us in bread and wine to give to us the spoils of His victory over sin and death. We receive forgiveness of all our sins. We receive eternal life with Him. We receive salvation from all our enemies. He is worthy of all glory, laud and honor, for He has conquered sin and death, and given to us the rewards of His victory. We should therefore sing His praise not only today, but every day. Especially should we gather together with the whole Christian Church both on Earth and in Heaven, and follow our Lord + Jesus to His cross.

For although this Holy Week begins with a reflection, a shadow, of the Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord, we are quickly led to the sufferings of our Lord—to His Passion—for us. Even on this *Dominica Palmarum*, this Lord's Day of the Palms, we begin with a joyous procession carrying our palm branches and singing of our Lord's glory, laud and honor, and then we are quickly brought back from that joy to our Lord's suffering and death. We heard the Passion of our Lord according to the Apostle and Evangelist St. Matthew. During this week's Services we will hear that Passion every day until Good Friday, except Maundy Thursday when we will pause to hear our Lord + Jesus institute His Holy Supper of His Body and Blood for the remission of our sins. We will follow our Lord and His Passion for us all this week.

We will shed tears of sorrow over our sins; over our unworthiness at such a gracious and merciful Lord and Savior we have. He suffered abundantly for our sakes. What love He manifests in His wounds! He endures the suffering that we deserve, even though He is holy and innocent of all crimes and sins of which He is accused. On the holy tree of the cross He lovingly does what the very great multitudes cry out for Him to do. He saves us now. He saves mankind from sin, death and the devil by His suffering and death. He saves all those who cling to this sacrifice in faith. He saves us poor sinners, even though we are not worthy of this great act of love for us.

Therefore, my dearly beloved saints of the Lord God, we will not only shed tears of sorrow this week over our unworthiness for such a gift as we hear the Passion of our Lord over and over again, but we will also shed tears of joy that our Lord and Savior has come to us lowly and sitting on a donkey, the colt, a foal of a donkey, to triumphantly rescue us from sin, death and the devil. He has triumphantly come to save us now from all our enemies—from the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh. Let us then gladly join our voices to the very great multitude that now exists in the Christian Church on Earth, and the very great multitude of all the saints and angels in Heaven, who sing our Lord's praises, not only on every Lord's Day, but on every day. Let us wave our palm branches and sing that our Lord + Jesus

is worthy of all glory, laud and honor, for He is our Redeeming King.

He comes to the city of Jerusalem, the city where His father David's throne was placed, and where King Solomon built the temple—the place where the Lord God dwelled among His people. He comes to rule as the spotless Lamb of God, Who suffers and dies for the sins of all mankind, especially of those who believe. He comes to save us now. He comes lowly and humbly. He comes to suffer and die. He comes innocent and holy. Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord!

Therefore, my dear friends, let us follow our Lord to His cross and death during this Holy Week, for by His suffering and death—His Passion—He has conquered death, and opened to us the gates of the Kingdom of Heaven, so that we may enter in and join the very great multitude of the heavenly host, and live there with Him for all eternity waving our palm branches and singing His praise without end. Thanks be to God! In the Name of our Lord + Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer in Pulpit after Sermon:

Almighty and Everlasting God, Who hast led Thy dear Son Jesus Christ through sufferings and death to Thine eternal glory, and hast exalted Him at Thy right hand to be Lord of lords and King of kings: we beseech Thee, grant us Thy good Spirit, that with willing hearts we may receive Him as our King, and follow His example of true humility, that, being made perfect through sufferings, we may enter into eternal glory; through Thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever One God, world without end. Amen.

The Votum:

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Soli Deo Gloria!