

Community of Grace

DAILY WALK WEEK OF APRIL 11, 2022

Palm Sunday

Written by Trudy Hanson

Monday, April 11, 2022

“But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed.” Luke 22:21-23 Betrayed! I just keep thinking, WHY? How could someone Jesus trusted betray him? What was in his head? What was the final thing that made him decide to do it? We would never do that!!!!!!... But do we????

Have you ever looked at someone and criticized how they look, or has there ever been a time that someone new comes into church and you look at how they dress or what they say and feel like they are disrespectful? Or maybe you don't approve of a relationship, or you point out their faults or they are too loud or opinionated. Maybe someone does something and you think they are stupid and irresponsible or selfish. These are moments in life and sometimes we don't see the importance of them. But all of these are a betrayal. We are only human and many times we look for the Judas in others, but every time we look at someone else and find fault, we are disappointing Jesus and on the wrong path. We need to take a look at ourselves and ask, am I right or is everyone else wrong?

Jesus humbled himself and became human for us so that he could teach us so we would understand. He is asking us to take a long look at ourselves and see the truth that he has taught us. The truth is to Love everyone, to hold your arms wide open and accept everyone. Be concerned and care for everyone. So back to the beginning, WHY? We would never do that...but we do.....We are but children learning every day. Examine yourself, don't look at others look at yourself and examine your heart to see your sin and the betrayals within and confess them and repent of them. Prayer: Dear Jesus, help us to look

within ourselves and see our betrayals. Forgive us and lead us to the joy of eternity with you. Amen

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

“When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, ‘I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.’ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, ‘Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” Luke 22:14-18 When I first read through these verses my first thought was, why was Jesus so eager to be with his disciples knowing what was about to happen. I read it over and over again and it finally came to me that, yes, Jesus knew what was coming, that he would soon die, but he also knew that although sad it was what God had planned to save us and something amazing was about to happen. I started thinking about all the things that we get excited about and all the things that we gather our family and friends for. My Mom had a huge family of 9 brothers and sisters and most of them had more than 5 children each so Birthdays were huge. The anticipation was over the top knowing everyone was coming, playing with my cousins and best of all the gifts, cake and games. We knew that it would be a great day just not sure how it would turn out. Then there were times when a relative passed away and we heard stories of the last thing they wanted knowing they were going to die. A friends Mom asked if she could have a shot of whisky, odd since she never drank. But she said I just want to know what it tastes like before I die.....she said she didn't miss anything...Jesus knew he was going to die and it was important to be with his disciples to break the bread and drink the wine and give them the command that they would never

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forget, “Do this in remembrance of me. Jesus’ knew he was going to die and it was important that his last words to his disciples were powerful and instructional so they would never forget them. And to this day we remember those words when we receive communion. Powerful.....“Do this in remembrance of me” Prayer: Heavenly Father, help us to remember the importance of these words, Do this in remembrance of me. Amen

Resurrection of Our Lord

Written by Vicar Jared Fischer

Wednesday April 13

“Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.” (Psalm 118:19-22). The last confrontation, or great adventure if you’re a Captain Hook type, is death. It is the last thing we will do on this Earth as mortal humans. When we pass into the Kingdom of Heaven we will be judged for our sins, for our inability to live our lives in accordance with the laws of the father, and we will be found lacking. As sinful creatures, it is not possible to be the perfection that is asked of us. It is because of this that we need a redeemer, an intercessor to speak on our behalf and to take away our sin from our lives. Holy week is about just that, giving us humans that can’t do the right thing ourselves, the opportunity to be saved for our sin; a new covenant. Prayer. “God of grace and mercy we give thanks and praise for your wisdom. Out of our failings you have sent to us a new covenant, and through that infinite forgiveness we are saved. Amen.”

Thursday April 14

“But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress.” (Isaiah 65:17-19). On this day in the liturgical year, we take the time to remember the new covenant that Christ has created for us. This is the day we celebrate and rejoice in the delight and joy that God has given to all of us, Jew and Gentile alike. And even though Maundy Thursday was far off in the future during the time of the prophet Isaiah, the sentiment that he prophesied came to pass on this day in the Holy Week. While it can be difficult to think about the death of Christ that was alluded to when Jesus made His statements about the new covenant, the reality is a sadness that is only temporary and a joy that is eternal. This is the week that promises hope for all. Hope that should end the weeping and the cries of sorrow that permeate a life without forgiveness, without grace. Prayer. “God of grace and mercy, we give thanks and praise for the gift of the new covenant given to us through Christ Jesus. We pray for the strength to pay that gift forward to our neighbors and to be the hands that spread your love in this world. Amen.”

Friday April 15

“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say, “His steadfast love endures forever.” (Psalm 118:1-4). We Christians can seem like a weird bunch this time of year. If you are not a believer, it can seem like we are celebrating the death of our Lord on Good Friday, but let the secret out, we are! We are celebrating the death of Jesus Christ at the hands of the Romans, fueled by political lies from the pharisees. Why? Because only in defeating death, in conquering that final confrontation that

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man has to endure before getting to God, has Jesus truly given us the forgiveness of our sins. Christ's love is beyond then, beyond now, beyond the future. His steadfast love and mercy will endure forever. Let our community say, "Christ's love endures forever!" Even beyond death. Prayer. "God of grace and mercy, we give thanks and praise for the hope of the resurrection despite the pain of the death of our lord. We pray for strength and hope to trust in the words of the Son, that through His death we all receive eternal life. Amen."

Saturday April 16

"Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him." (Acts 10:34-38). Today is the day that we wait. We hold the vigil for Christ so that through His death we remember His teachings, teachings of the things yet to come. As we pray together today, tell your neighbor of the anointed Jesus Christ. He who has died, He who will be risen! That story is just as relevant today as it was on the eve of the first Easter. Be the faithful that waited. Be the women of the story who journeyed to the tomb. Have faith in what Christ promises us and be confident that He will return! Prayer. "God of grace and mercy, grant us the patience to suffer with Christ through His death on the cross so that we may see Him rise on Easter. Strengthen us to support one another through the dark times, knowing that Christ will be there as the light. Amen."

Sunday April 17

We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." (Acts 10:39-43). Arguably the most important day in all of Christendom. Easter, the day that the Lord conquered death at the hands of us, the ones He came to save. Our Lord took upon our sin, died for it, and still would not leave us. He was raised by the Father and fulfilled the prophecy of the scripture. The son of man, the son of God, is our redeemer and through Him we now can receive the glory of the eternal Kingdom of Heaven. Prayer. "God of grace and mercy, we give thanks and praise for lifting your Son, Christ Jesus, from the death He suffered from our sin. We are undeserving of this phenomenal gift and pray for wisdom to carry His ministry forward for all of the days to come. Amen."