

Lessons for The Sixth Sunday in Lent (Palm Sunday)

March 24, 2024

Psalm 31:9–16 ~ *David's plea for God's mercy when his life has unraveled, physically and socially.*

Zechariah 9:9–12 ~ *The King will come to Zion proclaiming peace and establishing His covenant.*

Philippians 2:5–11 ~ *By His humble service, Jesus has won our salvation and our loyalty.*

Mark 15:1–47 ~ *Mark's account of Jesus' suffering and crucifixion.*

GATHERING THE TEXTS: Affirmation of Baptism

Many themes come together today: The pre-service and processional recalls Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, foretold in the Old Testament Lesson for today. The Epistle Lesson describes the result of God's grace in our Christian lives. The suffering and death of our Lord is told in the Gospel Lesson. Many congregations also celebrate baptismal grace as confirmands make their public profession of faith and affirmation of their Baptisms today.

PRAYER BEFORE THE SERVICE: Gracious Father, be with all those who publicly express their faith and trust in you today. Be with me as I renew my covenant to be faithful in service to you until death that I may receive the crown of eternal life through your grace in Christ Jesus. Amen.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT: God calls us to humble service as we follow the model of Jesus' suffering and redemptive life. As we bow our knees and make confession of Christ's lordship over our lives, we recognize that even the material things we have are subject to God's will.

OFFERING PRAYER: O Lord, we dedicate our lives to You again today,
and follow you in humble service through what we do and say.
so may we now commit our treasure, talents, and our time
in serving you and all our neighbors, letting your love shine. Amen.

CONVICTION AND COMFORT: We are faced with Pilate's dilemma: What shall we do with this One, called the King of the Jews? He has come to fulfill God's promise to bring peace and establish the new covenant with his people through humble service even by his death on the cross in order to claim our loyal confession. Too often our response is like those who shouted "Crucify him!" as we seek ways to promote our own agendas or to protect ourselves from perceived threats. But still his unfailing love embraces us until we cannot do other than proclaim, "Surely this man is the Son of God! Jesus Christ is Lord!"

Questions to Consider:

- How does God establish peace without chariots, war-horses, and battle bows?
- How does our confession that Jesus Christ is our Lord bring glory to God the Father?
- Describe the tragedy and the triumph behind the charge against Jesus?
- What does your baptism have to do with a life of service?