

Palm Sunday—Sunday, April 14

Psalm. 118: 1-4, 15-29

¹O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

²Let Israel say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

³Let the house of Aaron say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

⁴Let those who fear the Lord say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

“

¹⁵There are glad songs of victory in the tents of
the righteous:

“The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;

¹⁶the right hand of the Lord is exalted;
the right hand of the Lord does valiantly.”

¹⁷I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the Lord.

¹⁸The Lord has punished me severely,
but he did not give me over to death.

¹⁹Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the Lord.

²⁰This is the gate of the Lord;

the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

²²The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³This is the Lord’s doing;
it is marvellous in our eyes.

²⁴This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!
O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

²⁶Blessed is the one who comes in the name of
the Lord.

We bless you from the house of the Lord.

²⁷The Lord is God,
and he has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches,
up to the horns of the altar.

²⁸You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God, I will extol you.

²⁹O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

Philippians 2:5-11

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ
Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,

¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

John 12:12-19

¹²The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹ So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,

“Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!”

¹⁴Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: ¹⁵“Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

¹⁶His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him. ¹⁷So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify.¹⁸It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him. ¹⁹The Pharisees then said to one another, “You see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!”

Questions:

Overall Lent Questions:

Before you read today, check yourself -

1. How do you feel about Lent?/How are feeling about this Lenten season?
2. How do you feel walking with Jesus on his journey through this time of his suffering, betrayal, and death? How do you feel walking with those around you on your Lenten journey?
3. What do you want from Jesus this Lent? Be specific.
4. What do you think Jesus wants for/from you during Lent?

Entering the Text:

1. What word/phrase stands out to you?
2. What do these texts say about who God is?
3. What do these texts say about who we are?
4. What do these texts say about our relationship - or lack thereof - with God?
5. What good news do you hear

Digging Deeper:

1. There could have been a whole variety of reasons that the crowd was following Jesus at this point. Perhaps they had heard about Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead and wanted Jesus to do the same for them, or someone they loved. Perhaps they were simply following the crowd and caught up in a “mob mentality.” Why do you/have you followed after Jesus? What’s your motive? Are there any wrong reasons to follow Jesus? Is there only one reason why we “should” be following Jesus? Or, is there room for a multiplicity of motives in choosing to follow?
2. Imagine you are part of the crowd. Jesus stops, the crowd “freezes” and he turns to look directly at you. What does he say to you? What do you want to say to him? What does Jesus “see”?
3. What does it mean to you to “see” Jesus? When, where, or how, have you “seen” Jesus?
4. Hosanna is both a cry of praise and a cry for help. Literally, “hosanna” means “save us!” From what

