

Sunday Worship
Bulletin
**PALM
SUNDAY**

10:00 AM
April 13, 2025



Saint John's Lutheran Church

---- *Missouri Synod* ----

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Radio Broadcast at 7:30 AM on WHYN 560 AM

WELCOME IN THE NAME OF JESUS, OUR LORD!

We pray that our worship this day will be an inspiration to every one of us. If you are a visitor or the guest of someone, please sign our Guest Book at the round table in the Foyer. Requests for prayers in this morning's service may be made by writing them on the Prayer Request form in the entryway of the church. A Nursery for infants and toddlers is available in Room 4 on this level.

Jesus said: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you are also to love another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35

TO OUR VISITORS AND GUESTS: The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at this congregation is administered in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. It is celebrated in the confidence that we receive into our mouths, not just bread and wine, but as our Lord promises His true Body and Blood "through and in which we obtain the forgiveness of sins". If you are not a member of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we kindly ask that you arrange for a time to speak with Pastor Riley if you are interested in receiving Holy Communion.

✠ HAND CHIME PRELUDE: *"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"*
(Please Stand and Face the Back of the Church)

✠ PROCESSION of the PALMS

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

P: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

C: Hosanna to the Son of David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!

P: Let us pray. Most merciful God, as the people of Jerusalem, with palms in their hands, gathered to greet Your dearly beloved Son when He came into His Holy City, grant that we may ever hail Him as our King and, when He comes again, may go forth to meet Him with trusting and steadfast hearts and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter, verses 12-19.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

P: The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Blessed is the king of Israel!"

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: "Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt."

At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. 18 Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him. 19 So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!"

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

† PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. **442**: “All Glory, Laud and Honor”

Refrain



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To You, Re-deem - er, King,



To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



- 1 You are the King of Is - rael And Da - vid's roy - al Son,
- 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels Is prais - ing You on high,
- 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims With palms be - fore You went;
- 4 To You be - fore Your pas - sion They sang their hymns of praise;
- 5 As You re - ceived their prais - es, Ac - cept the prayers we bring,



Refrain

Now in the Lord's name com - ing, Our King and Bless - ed One.
 And we with all cre - a - tion In cho - rus make re - ply.
 Our praise and prayer and an - thems Be - fore You we pre - sent.
 To You, now high ex - alt - ed, Our mel - o - dy we raise.
 O Source of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Our good and gra - cious King.

† CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
 Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

✠ SALUTATION and COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Most merciful God, as the people of Jerusalem, with palms in their hands, gathered to greet Your dearly beloved Son when He came into His Holy City, grant that we may ever hail Him as our King and, when He comes again, may go forth to meet Him with trusting and steadfast hearts and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Be Seated)

✠ OLD TESTAMENT: Zechariah 9:9-12 (The prophet foretells of the humble King.)

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit. Return to your fortress, you prisoners of hope; even now I announce that I will restore twice as much to you.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

✠ THE EPISTLE: Philippians 2:5-11

(Humbled to death on a cross that we might be exulted with Him.)

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

✠ HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 23:1-56 (*Jesus suffers, dies, and is buried.*)

P: The Passion of Our Lord according to St. Luke, twenty-third chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Then the whole company of them arose and brought him before Pilate. And they began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king." And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no guilt in this man." But they were urgent, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place."

When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. I will therefore punish and release him."

But they all cried out together, "Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas"— a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" A third time he said to them, "Why? What evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him." But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.

And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering

him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

(Please stand)

It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last. Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!" And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments.

On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

✠ STATEMENT of FAITH: Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, Begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead whose kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian

and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

† HYMN of the DAY NO. **444**: "No Tramp of Soldiers' Marching Feet "



1 No tramp of sol - diers' march - ing feet
2 And yet He comes. The chil - dren cheer;
3 What fad - ing flow'rs His road a - dorn;
4 Now He who bore for mor - tals' sake



With ban - ners and with drums, No sound of mu - sic's
With palms His path is strown. With ev - 'ry step the
The palms, how soon laid down! No bloom or leaf but
The cross and all its pains And chose a ser - vant's



mar - tial beat: "The King of glo - ry comes!"
cross draws near: The King of glo - ry's throne.
on - ly thorn The King of glo - ry's crown.
form to take, The King of glo - ry reigns.



To greet what pomp of king - ly pride
A - stride a colt He pass - es by
The sol - diers mock, the rab - ble cries,
Ho - san - na to the Sav - ior's name



No bells in tri - umph ring, No cit - y gates swing
As loud ho - san - nas ring, Or else the ver - y
The streets with tu - mult ring, As Pi - late to the
Till heav - en's raf - ters ring, And all the ran - somed



o - pen wide: "Be - hold, be - hold your King!"
stones would cry "Be - hold, be - hold your King!"
mob re - plies, "Be - hold, be - hold your King!"
host pro - claim "Be - hold, be - hold your King!"

(Be Seated)

✠ SERMON: *"It Just Doesn't Seem Fair"* Philippians 2:5-11

(Please Stand)

✠ DEDICATION of OFFERINGS

✠ PRAYER of the CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
Lord of hosts, Your Son entered into Jerusalem amid shouts of "hosanna" and people waving palms. Give us hearts full of His mercy, and join our voices to theirs in these holy days, that we would humbly bow our knees at His holy name. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Holy Lord God, You have revealed the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ to the nations. Guard Your Church against all her enemies. Empower her in the proclamation of the saving Gospel and in the works of mercy that make known Your love to those still in darkness and the shadow of death. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Heavenly Father, You sacrificed Your own Son on the cross, that we may be called Your children. Increase the faith of all Christian fathers, that receiving Jesus and trusting in His atoning sacrifice, they may be enlivened to sacrificial love for their children. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Almighty God, You establish governments and appoint leaders to exercise Your justice, promote virtue and protect the weak. Bless our president, the Congress, our governor, the legislature of this state, all judges and magistrates, and those who protect our liberty at home and abroad. Give us the will and desire to be good and faithful citizens, that we may not dishonor You by our words or conduct. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Father, we bring before You the sick, distressed and needy. Give Your abiding comfort in every circumstance, that in Christ we shall not die, but live and declare His works. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Blessed are You, O Lord, and blessed is Your Son, Jesus Christ, who came in Your name to save us from sin and death. As He visits us this day with His body and blood under the bread and wine, give us penitent hearts that worthily welcome His coming and rejoice in His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! We praise You, Father, that You have sent Your Son not in wrath but in mercy. As we enter this most holy week and ponder together the mysteries of Your great salvation, show us the answer to Your people's prayers of "hosanna" in the Passion of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

P: The Lord be with you.



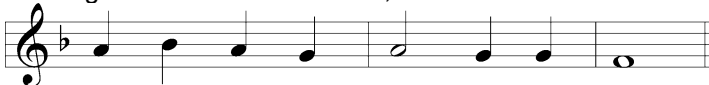
☐ And with thy spir - it.

P: Lift up your hearts.



☐ We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



☐ It is meet and right so to do.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



☐ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless-ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

† WORDS of INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also, He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

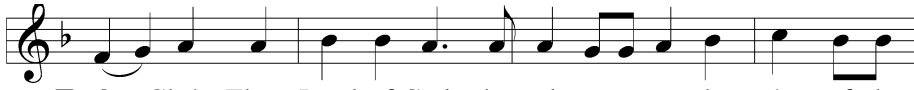
† PAX DOMINI

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.



☐ A - men.

† AGNUS DEI



☐ O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that

tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the

world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

(Be Seated)

† DISTRIBUTION HYMN NO. **441**: *“Ride On, Ride on in Majesty”*

1 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Hark! All the
 2 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly
 3 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! The an - gel
 4 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Thy last and
 5 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly

tribes ho - san - na cry. O Sav - ior meek, pur -
 pomp ride on to die. O Christ, Thy tri - umphs
 ar - mies of the sky Look down with sad and
 fierc - est strife is nigh. The Fa - ther on His
 pomp ride on to die. Bow Thy meek head to

sue Thy road, With palms and scat - tered gar - ments strowed.
 now be - gin O'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
 won - d'ring eyes To see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.
 sap - phire throne A - waits His own a - noint - ed Son.
 mor - tal pain, Then take, O God, Thy pow'r and reign.

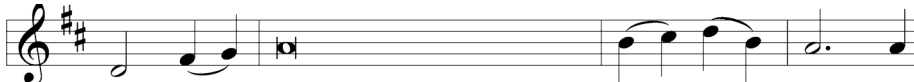
(Please Stand)

† THE BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace and joy.

C: Amen.

† NUNC DIMITTIS



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and



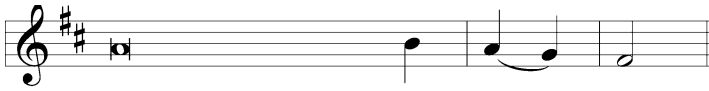
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,



is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

† THANKSGIVING

P: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



☐ and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



☐ A - men.

† SALUTATION and BENEDICAMUS

P: The Lord be with you.



☐ And with thy spir - it.

P: Bless we the Lord.



☐ Thanks be to God.

† BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.



☐ A-men, a-men, a - men.

† RECESSIONAL HYMN NO. **389**: "Let All Together Praise Our God"



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His
 2 He leaves His heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an
 3 With - in an earth - born form He hides His all - cre -
 4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, Puts on our



glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To
 in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies
 at - ing light; To serve us all He hum - bly cloaks The
 hu - man frame, And in re - turn gives us His realm, His



give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.
 in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.
 splen - dor of His might, The splen - dor of His might.
 glo - ry, and His name, His glo - ry, and His name.

5 He is a servant, I a lord:

How great a mystery!

How strong the tender Christ Child's love!

No truer friend than He,

No truer friend than He.

6 He is the key and He the door

To blessèd paradise;

The angel bars the way no more.

To God our praises rise,

To God our praises rise.

7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,

Lord Jesus, we adore

And praise to God the Father yield

And Spirit evermore;

We praise You evermore.

† POSTLUDE

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

Holy Thursday: April 17: Absolution and Holy Communion at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday: April 18: Tenebrae Service at 7:00 p.m.

EASTER Vigil: Saturday, April 19 at 6:00 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY: April 20

Sunrise Service at Town Green at 6:00 a.m.

Festival Service with Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

REFLECTIONS FOR PALM SUNDAY & SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

The Son of David Ascends His Throne and Reigns in Love from His Cross

The Son of David comes in gentle humility, "sitting on a donkey's colt," yet as the King of Israel "in the Name of the Lord" (John 12:13–15). He comes to be lifted up in glory on the cross in order to cast out "the ruler of this world" and draw all people to Himself (John 12:23–32). The Church is thus called to "rejoice greatly," because her King comes with salvation, and "He shall speak peace to the nations" (Zechariah 9:9–10). As He is anointed "beforehand for burial" (Mark 14:8), He also ascends His royal throne as "the King of the Jews" by way of His Passion (Mark 15:2, 17–19, 26). He goes "as it is written of Him," wherefore "you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power" (Mark 14:21, 62). For the glory of God is love, which crescendos in the humble obedience and voluntary self-sacrifice of the Son of God for the salvation of sinners. So, God the Father has "highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the Name that is above every name" (Philippians 2:9), that He might reign over us in love with the forgiveness of His cross.

Maybe Today!

During the week before His Crucifixion, Jesus talked about the End of the Age (Matthew 24). He indicated what some of the signs of the end will be, and He described what His return will be like. What He did not tell us, though, is exactly when these things will happen. In fact, Jesus said, "...the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." That is why, He emphasized, "Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect" (Matthew 24:44).

How would you spend your last day if you knew when it was? What would be most important to you? What would you do to "be ready"? Jesus' point is that we should spend each day as if it is the last. He told us that the "faithful and wise servant" is the one "whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time. Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes" (Matthew 24:45). In this parable, Jesus is the master, and we are His servants. Whom is Jesus placing under our care?

Did you wake up this morning and look out your window and say, "Maybe today!"? For the Christian, this hope brings joy and urgency – joy that Heaven is near and urgency that we want everyone to be there. Let us, then, live every day imagining that this is the day of Christ's coming. Let us not get discouraged as we go about the business of the Kingdom, keeping in mind the unbelievable prize God has in store for His faithful stewards.

Even though we do not know the time of Jesus' return, we "must be ready" for His coming. Beware of any teacher who claims to know when Jesus will come again. What we can do is stay steadfast in our faith and to feed and take care of the people whom God has placed under our care. How blessed we are that God wants to use our hands, feet, and mouth to help and minister to others!