

+DIVINE SERVICE IV+
OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
+PROCESSION FOR PALM SUNDAY+ 02 APRIL 2023+



The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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tgsicms.org

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

“A Church where God gives and we receive.”

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 - ❖ Mr. Jose Lopez, Congregational Chairman
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Welcome to our Divine Service!

We are pleased that you are with us.

+Worship Notes+

The entire service, including the rubrics of when to sit and when to kneel or stand, and what to say, is printed out in this folder so you may follow along.

Welcome to weekly Divine Service at The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church! We are a congregation that confesses the Holy Bible as inerrant, that justification is by faith according to the Holy Bible and confessed in the 1580 Book of Concord. God bless you.

To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. Please introduce yourself to our pastor. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world. If you are looking for a church home and would like to know about our membership, pastor would love to speak with you!

A Note From The Organist:

“The King’s Majesty” is an alternate tune for “Ride On, Ride On in Majesty” which is not found in the pew edition of LSB. It is included in a supplemental group of hymns in the accompaniment edition. Its meter varies between 4/4, 5/4, and 6/4, giving it a chant-like quality. The minor mode is perhaps a reminder of the events to come during Holy Week. Wilbur Held’s setting starts quietly and builds to a full organ at the end.

BWV 736 presents the melody in the pedal with the hands playing a constant triplet pattern.

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation

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.

Text: Theodulf of Orléans, c. 762–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
 Tune: Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635, alt.

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Exhortation

LSB 167

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

LSB 167

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Absolution

LSB 167

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 30:1-5

- ¹I will extol you, O LORD, for you have | drawn me up*
and have not let my foes rejoice | over me.
- ²**O LORD my God, I cried to | you for help,*
and you have | healed me.**
- ³O LORD, you have brought up my soul | from Sheol;*
you restored me to life from among those who go down | to the pit.
- ⁴**Sing praises to the LORD, O | you his saints,*
and give thanks to his | holy name.**
- ⁵For his anger is but for a moment,
and his favor is for a | lifetime.*
**Weeping may tarry for the night,
but joy comes with the | morning.**



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis is omitted during Lent

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Zechariah 9:9–12

⁹Rejoice 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.

¹⁰I 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.

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
 I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
 today I declare that I will restore to you double.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 118:19–29

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

²⁰**This is the gate | of the LORD;***
the righteous shall enter | through it.

²¹I thank you that you have | answered me*
and have become my sal- | vation.

²²**The stone that the builders re- | jected***
has become the | cornerstone.

²³This is the LORD's | doing;*
it is marvelous | in our eyes.

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

²⁵Save us, we pray, | O LORD!*
O LORD, we pray, give | us success!

²⁶**Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the LORD!***
We bless you from the house | of the LORD.

²⁷The LORD is God,
and he has made his light to shine up- | on us.*
Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,
up to the horns of the | altar!

²⁸**You are my God, and I will give | thanks to you;***
you are my God; I will ex- | tol you.

²⁹Oh give thanks to the LORD, for | he is good;*
for his steadfast love endures for- | ever!

Epistle

Philippians 2:5–11

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the

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

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:1-9

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

The Triumphal Entry

¹When they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." ⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

⁵"Say to the daughter of Zion,
'Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'"

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.



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.**

**And 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.**

Sit



Hymn of the Day

443 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna



1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, The lit - tle chil - dren sang;
2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed Mid an ex - ul - tant crowd,
3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing;



Through pil - lared court and tem - ple The love - ly an - them rang.
The vic - tor palm branch wav - ing And chant - ing clear and loud.
For Christ is our Re - deem - er, The Lord of heav'n our King.



To Je - sus, who had blessed them, Close fold - ed to His breast,
The Lord of earth and heav - en Rode on in low - ly state
Oh, may we ev - er praise Him With heart and life and voice



The chil - dren sang their prais - es, The sim - plest and the best.
Nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren Should on His bid - ding wait.
And in His bliss - ful pres - ence E - ter - nal - ly re - joyce!

Text: Jeannette Threlfall, 1821-80, alt.

Tune: Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Hofkapelle, 1784, Württemberg

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Pastor Edward Killian

Stand

Prayer of the Church

- P** Let us pray for Christ's Holy Church, that she may be defended against her enemies and kept faithful in the confession of Jesus Christ to the nations:
- P** Almighty God, because You have revealed the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ to the nations, guard Your Church against all enemies of Your name and empower her in the proclamation of this saving Gospel and in the works of mercy that make known Your love to those still in darkness and the shadow of death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

P Let us pray for those who govern and for our own lives as citizens and servants of Christ who honor authority and live holy, upright and godly lives to Your praise and glory:

P Almighty God, You have established governments and appointed leaders to serve on Your behalf in the exercise of justice, the promotion of virtue and the protection of 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 so that we may not dishonor You by our words or conduct; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Let us pray to our Lord, God Almighty, that He would free us from error; heal us from all disease; show concern for the poor and hungry; and give care to the disabled, the aged and the infirm:

P Almighty God, You heal and restore according to Your gracious will. Behold the sick and suffering and all in any distress of mind or spirit [*especially care Alice, Bev, Carmen, Cynthia, Debra, Dolores, Gene, Jane, Jod, Johnathan, Karen, Lynette, Marion and her family, Megan, Naomi, Royce, Sabrina, Steven, Susie and her family, Suzanne, and Timothy, and those we name in our hearts.* Give them the grace in which to persevere through the day of trouble and give patience to those who struggle with disability. Visit the poor and hungry with Your gracious presence and Your gifts, and lead us to respect and love all people, from life's beginning to its appointed end; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Let us pray for those outside the Church, for those who have fallen away from the truth and for those who have renounced the faith:

P Almighty God, as once Your Son was welcomed with palms and hosannas, so open the hearts of all who hear Your Word that by the Holy Spirit they may believe in Jesus Christ and come to Him. Restore the fallen, and bring back to the faith those who have rejected this Gospel for the prison of error and idol; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Let us pray for the peace of the world, for peace in Christ's Church and for peace in the hearts and lives of all Christians:

P Almighty God, You have given us the peace that passes understanding in Christ, our Lord. Manifest His peace among the nations to bring an end to war and violence, unite Your Church in peace and harmony, and give Your calm to

the troubled hearts of Your people that they may serve You in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Let us pray for our enemies, for those who hurt us and for those who persecute the Church of Christ:

P Almighty God, while we were yet Your enemies, You sent forth Your Son to suffer for our sins and die to free us from death. Guide us to love those who hate us, to pray for our enemies and those who persecute Your people because of their faith, and to give witness to the hope within us in the day of trial. Bring them to repentance, that they may be of one mind and heart with us and with Your whole Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Let us pray for our good use of all God's gifts and for grateful hearts:

P Almighty God, though we in no way deserve Your kindness, You give us mercies new each morning. Make us mindful of Your gifts and wise in their use, for the glory of Your holy name. Fill us with thanksgiving, that we may rejoice in Your generosity and honor You for the daily bread You never fail to give; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Sit

Offering *Collected after service in the back of the church.*

Service of the Sacrament

Stand

Preface

LSB 208

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 208



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



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

At Your command, Abraham prepared to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice on the mountain; yet, in mercy You provided a ram as a substitute. We give You

thanks that on Calvary You spared not Your only Son but sent Him to offer His life as a ransom for many.

As we eat and drink His body and blood, grant us, like Abraham our father, to trust in Your promise now fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

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.

The Words of Our Lord

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.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 210



1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Sit

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

619 Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior



1 Thy bod - y, giv'n for me, O Sav - ior, Thy blood which
2 With Thee, Lord, I am now u - nit - ed; I live in
3 Who can con - demn me now? For sure - ly The Lord is
4 Though death may threat - en with dis - as - ter, It can - not
5 My heart has now be - come Thy dwell - ing, O bless - ed,



Thou for me didst shed, These are my life and
Thee and Thou in me. No sor - row fills my
nigh, who jus - ti - fies. No hell I fear, and
rob me of my cheer; For He who is of
ho - ly Trin - i - ty. With an - gels I, Thy



strength for - ev - er, By them my hun - gry soul is fed.
 soul, de - light - ed It finds its on - ly joy in Thee.
 thus se - cure - ly With Je - sus I to heav - en rise.
 death the mas - ter With aid and com - fort e'er is near.
 prais - es tell - ing, Shall live in joy e - ter - nal - ly.

Refrain



Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

Distribution Hymn

638 Eat This Bread

Refrain



Eat this bread, drink this cup, Come to Him and nev - er be hun - gry.



Eat this bread, drink this cup, Trust in Him and you will not thirst.

Cantor or Choir



1 This is His bod - y giv - en for you; this is His blood that was shed for you.



2 As of - ten as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you show His death un - til He comes a - gain.



3 Eat His flesh and drink His blood, and Christ will raise you up on the Last Day.



4 An - y - one who eats this bread will live for - ev - er.

Refrain

5 If we be-lieve and eat this bread, we will have e - ter - nal life.

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

C 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 - tles 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 with - out end. A - men.

Post-Communion Collect

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 in 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.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

LSB 212

P Let us bless the Lord.

C 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.

C Amen.

Hymn to Depart

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.

Acknowledgments

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✠ **THIS WEEK'S NOTES** ✠

Announcements

**+ Last Sunday's Attendance: 36
Midweek Attendance: 24**

**+ Altar Guild Set Up: April 2nd Maurine
April 9th Susie
Cleanup for April: Maurine and Nannette**

+ Thank you to all the ladies who helped decorate the Church for Palm Sunday!

+ Today is Mite Sunday! The Mite Collection box is located on the Coffee Table in the Narthex. Pick up a treat provided by the lovely ladies of the LWML.

**+ Today is the last day to dedicate an Easter Lily. If you would like to purchase and dedicate a lily, the order sheets are on the desk in Narthex!
There are 2 available left to order.**

+ Offering Envelopes have arrived! Grab your box of offering envelopes before you leave, located on the table by the front door.

+Join us for Easter Service next week! There will be a brunch in the Narthex after service. If you would like to contribute anything, there is a sign up sheet on the Coffee Table in the Narthex.

Join us for Holy Week

Maundy Thursday – Thursday, April 6th at 7pm

Good Friday – Friday, April 7th at 7pm

April Birthdays

Susie Fritts 25th

Martin Luther's "God's Humility For Us"

Here is truly illustrated the truth that no one comes to Christ except the Father draw him; and with what power, what delicious sweetness, the Father allures!

"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." ([Philippians 2:5-11](#))

Christ assumed the form of a servant, even while remaining God and having the form of God; he was God, and his divine words and works were spoken and wrought for our benefit. As a servant, he served us with these. He did not require us to serve him in compensation for them, as in the capacity of a Lord he had a just right to do. He sought not honor or profit thereby, but our benefit and salvation. It was a willing service and gratuitously performed, for the good of men. It was a service unspeakably great, because of the ineffable greatness of the minister and servant – God eternal, whom all angels and creatures serve.

"Being born in the likeness of men." Born of Mary, Christ's nature became human. But even in that humanity he might have exalted himself above all men and served none. But he forbore and became as other men. And by "likeness of men" we must understand just ordinary humanity without special privilege whatever. Now, without special privilege there is no disparity among men. Understand, then, Paul says in effect: Christ was made as any other man who has neither riches, honor, power nor advantage above his fellows; for many inherit power, honor and property by birth. So lowly did Christ become, and with such humility did he conduct himself, that no mortal is too lowly to be his equal, even servants and the poor. At the same time, Christ was sound, without bodily infirmities, as man in his natural condition might be expected to be.

"And being found in human form." That is, he followed the customs and habits of men, eating and drinking, sleeping and waking, walking and standing, hungering and thirsting, enduring cold and heat, knowing labour and weariness, needing clothing and shelter, feeling the necessity of prayer, and having the same experience as any other man in his relation to God and the world. - He had power to avoid these conditions; as God he might have demeaned and borne himself quite differently. But in becoming man, as above stated, he fared as a human being, and he accepted the necessities of ordinary mortals while all the time he manifested the divine form which expressed his true self.

"He humbled himself," or debased himself. In addition to manifesting his servant form in becoming man and faring as an ordinary human being, he went farther and made himself

lower than any man. He abased himself to serve all men with the supreme service – the gift of his life in our behalf.

He not only made himself subject to men, but also to sin, death and the devil, and bore it all for us. He accepted the most ignominious death, the death on the cross, dying not as a man but as a worm ([Ps 22, 6](#)). He lost even what favor, recognition and honor were due to the assumed servant form in which he had revealed himself, and perished altogether.

All this Christ surely did not do because we were worthy of it. Who could be worthy such service from such a one? Obedience to the Father moved him. Here Paul with one word unlocks heaven and permits us look into the unfathomable abyss of divine majesty and behold the ineffable love of the Fatherly heart toward us – his gracious will for us. He shows us how from eternity it has been God's pleasure that Christ, the glorious one who has wrought all this, should do it for us. What human heart would not melt at the joy-inspiring thought? Who would not love, praise and thank God and in return for his goodness, not only be ready to serve the world, but gladly to embrace the extremity of humility? Who would not so do when he is aware that God himself has such precious regard for him, and points to the obedience of his Son as the pouring out and evidence of his Fatherly will. Oh, the significance of the words Paul here uses! such words as he uses in no other place! He must certainly have burned with joy and cheer.

To gain such a glimpse of God – surely this must be coming to the Father through Christ. Here is truly illustrated the truth that no one comes to Christ except the Father draw him; and with what power, what delicious sweetness, the Father allures! How many are the preachers of the faith who imagine they know it all, when they have received not even an odor or taste of these things! How soon are they become masters who have never been disciples! Not having tasted God's love, they cannot impart it; hence they remain unprofitable babblers.

"Therefore God has highly exalted him." As Christ was cast to the lowest depths and subjected to all devils, in obeying God and serving us, so has God exalted him Lord over all angels and creatures, and over death and hell. Christ now has completely divested himself of the servant form – laid it aside. Henceforth he exists in the divine form, glorified, proclaimed, confessed, honored and recognized as God. While it is not wholly apparent to us that "all things are put in subjection" to Christ, as Paul says (I Cor 15, 27), the trouble is merely with our perception of the fact. It is true that Christ is thus exalted in person and seated on high in the fullness of power and might.

A Prayer for Palm Sunday

Almighty and everlasting God, You have caused Your beloved Son to take our nature upon Himself, that He might give us the example of humility and suffer death upon the cross for our sins: Mercifully grant us a believing knowledge of this, that we may follow the example of His patience, and be made partakers of the benefits of His sacred Passion and death; through the same, Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.