

Communion Hymn **C.W. 140** sung by the Congregation after everyone has communed including the Pastor

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon - Liturgy pg. 24)

Collect / Prayer (pg. 24)

Benediction

Closing Hymn **C.W. 130** sung by the Congregation.

SERMON TEXT: Mark 11:1-11 [only Read verses 5-10] (Matt. 21:1-9; Lk. 19:29-38; Jn. 12:12-15)

Vs. 1 – As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of His disciples,

Vs. 2 - saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find **a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden**. Untie it and bring it here.

Vs. 3 - If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ tell him, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.’”

Vs. 4 - They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it,

Vs. 5 - some people standing there asked, “What are you doing, untying that colt?”

Vs. 6 – They (The disciples) answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go.

Vs. 7 - When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, He sat on it.

Vs. 8 - Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields.

Vs. 9 - Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted,

Hosanna! Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord!

Vs. 10 - Blessed is the coming kingdom of our Father David!

Hosanna in the highest!

Vs. 11 - Jesus entered Jerusalem and went to the temple. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, He went out to Bethany with the Twelve.”

GREETING: Jesus says: Come to ME, all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. rest for your souls. (Matt. 11:28-29 -NIV)

As we continue with the Sermon Series for this Lent Season entitled “*The Hands of the Passion*”, we are making our way to the cross as we see Jesus Who spreads out *His hands* upon the Cross of Calvary (John 19:17-18) for the sin of the World (Heb. 10:10, I Tim. 2:5-6, I John 2:1-2), and then shows those same nail pierced hands three days later to His disciples behind the locked doors as Jesus declared to them “*Peace be With You.*” (John 20:19-27)

Today we see the hands of the disciples, the crowds, and even the owner of a donkey.

Before we look specifically at those three, I first want to ask you if you have ever heard anyone say to you that they would rather spend eternity in hell than in heaven, because they feel that heaven will be boring?

There are some who think that heaven will be boring because they believe that ALL they will be doing is standing / sitting around playing harps and singing to God. (For Passages concerning having harps in heaven see: Revelation 5:8; Revelation 14:2 & Rev. 15:2)

It is true that God does not give us as many specifics about heaven as we may want. In the Book of Revelation God gives us some glimpses of heaven as we learn in Revelation 21:1-7 that in heaven God will wipe away every tear, there will be no more death, or pain.

It is true that in **Revelation 15:2-4** the Apostle John reports what he saw as God gave him a glimpse of heaven and the Apostle John writes: *“I saw what looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire and standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and over the number of his name. They held harps given them by God and sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb: ‘Great and marvelous are Your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are Your ways, King of the ages.’”*

When the Lord Jesus was on the Mount of Transfiguration, we also saw a glimpse of heaven as Jesus was glorified before the disciples – Peter – James & John and there talking with Jesus was Moses & Elijah (Luke 9:28-36). And so we saw Moses and Elijah talking face to face with Jesus.

Who does not like to stand around and talk with someone that they like?

Then comparing those glimpses of heaven with what we are told in Scripture about hell: There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, the worm will never die, and the fire will never be quenched. And the devil and his evil horde of angels will be there tormenting all who are in hell with them. (Matthew 22:13, Matt. 24:51, Matt. 25:30, Matt. 25:41; Mark 9:44-48)

Will there be Euchre in heaven, or farming or gardening or craft work?

God in His word does not give us those specifics. One thing is for certain, those believers of this congregation whom the Lord has already called home to heaven, they know what heaven is like.

Just as there are some people who have commented that they think heaven will be boring, there are also some people who have said the same thing about joining together in public worship at church who have said: “Church is boring.” And so they either do not come at all, or that often. (Granted we are still coping with the pandemic of COVID-19, but what about before the pandemic, what about after it has been taken away by our Lord through whatever means He may provide.)

Today as we celebrate PALM SUNDAY – We look at The Hands of Praise.

As you see Jesus ride into the city of Jerusalem on the colt, a foal of a donkey, you will notice that the people are not even inside of any type of Temple or Church Building.

Church Buildings are NOT necessary, it is just nice to have a building when it is raining, snowing, and freezing outside or in some warmer climates it is nice to have the shade.

As Jesus is riding into the city of Jerusalem we see the people lining the road way praising and worshiping Jesus with their voice as they sing:

Vs. 9 - Hosanna! Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord! Vs. 10 - Blessed is the coming kingdom of our Father David! Hosanna in the highest!”

We see the people worship and praise Jesus as they take their cloaks and lay them before the colt, the foal of a donkey. Those who lay their cloaks before the Lord Jesus are giving of their possessions (money) to have them stepped upon by a donkey, trodden into the dirt.

Those who do not have a cloak to place before the Lord Jesus use their time and talent to cut some Palm Branches and place them before the hooves of the colt, the foal of the donkey as they praise and worship Jesus.

Even before this scene of people singing praises to the Lord Jesus, we see the disciples who went to get the colt upon which Jesus would be riding. (All in fulfillment of the O.T. prophesy in Zechariah 9:9-10).

Jesus told the disciples to go to a certain house and untie the colt and bring it.

The disciples did not question Jesus, they did not doubt Him, but they simply obeyed with Unquestioning obedience. Regardless of how unusual the request, they obeyed Jesus.

The sinful nature questions God; Why do I need to do this, or Why that?

The sinful nature challenges God's Word, Why? - Why? - Why?

The believer praises God with obedience, not just in the church building or together with fellow believers but we as believers praise God with obedience in our daily lives, by not cursing and swearing, by not lying, by not cheating, by not coveting, by not bearing false witness, by not committing adultery, AND When we obey God's Word by honoring our parents and those in authority and when we put God and His Work and His Word first in our lives.

We will not lead anyone to faith in Jesus by bad-mouthing the church or its members.
We will not lead anyone to faith in Jesus by cursing and swearing and taking God's name in vain.
We will not lead anyone to faith in Jesus by arguing or fighting about religion or anything else for that matter.

We will not lead anyone to faith in Jesus by knowingly and willingly living a sinful lifestyle.

As we saw the unquestioning obedience of the disciples, we also see the unquestioning obedience of the owner of the colt. When the owner of colt sees the disciples taking the colt and he asks what they are doing, the disciples answered as they were directed: "The Lord Needs it" and the owner allowed them to take the colt.

When we Praise and Worship our Lord and Savior Jesus, we do NOT need drums and an electric guitar, or even an organ. We do not need a printed liturgy or a hymnal or a choir that has rehearsed and is spotless in their singing and appearance. (Even though we may like some of those things, and they help us to stay focused on the Word of Christ.)

What we do need is a contrite heart, a heart that recognizes our sin, and confesses our sin, and gives thanks and praise for our Savior Jesus. (Ps. 34:18; Ps. 51:17; Isa. 57:15)

What we do need is family members and fellow church members who encourage one another (Heb. 10:25; Eph. 6:22; Col. 4:8; I Thess. 4:18) and build each other up in the Word of our Lord and we Worship Jesus our Risen and Living Savior with Unquestioning obedience, and we look forward to spending eternity with Jesus and all believers in heaven. AMEN.