

Grace Lutheran Church
The Rev. P. Stevens Lynn – Sermon
Sunday, March 25, 2018
Palm Sunday – Mark 14:1 – 15:47

*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ
Amen.*

Before I read this long passion narrative of Jesus – our Gospel lesson today – I want to remind you of the mood we are trying to create.

The first part of the worship creates this joyful, happy, almost chaotic atmosphere – what we think Jesus experienced as he rode into Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday. Kids Processional – Processional happy Gospel – But then as the service today moves on – we try to frame Jesus’ life as he moved on through Holy Week – a roller coaster of emotions – that is why we now read this long Passion narrative. This takes our sermon time.

We read this long Passion of Christ for a good reason. It’s always beneficial for us to hear and reflect on this. And some of you will not be here for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services – so then you wouldn’t hear this at all – all you would hear and see is the Easter celebration of Resurrection next week. And I think we need to move with Jesus as he suffered and died – then to Resurrection.

So today – we try to create this roller coaster of emotions to try to help see the path that Jesus walked – from Joy and Jubilation on Palm Sunday to suffering and death – his passion for us on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

Then we end our worship today on a little up-note with the hymn – Jesus Shall Reign. Why? Because we live on this side of the Resurrection and we never need to be in the same despair as the disciples were on that first Good Friday.

So here we go – The Passion of Jesus Christ.

Selected Readings – Mark 14:1 – 15:47