



# First Lutheran Church

*We are believers seeking to invite all into the caring, sharing and growing ways of Christ.*

## **PALM SUNDAY AND PASSION NARRATIVE ACCORDING TO LUKE**

Sunday April 9, 2017

8:30am & 10:45am

### **Reflection**

### **Palm to Passion**

During this season of Lent, we have been preparing for this moment, for this week of moments, for this momentous string of events. We opened our worship today spiritually standing with the crowds, praising our Lord as he entered Jerusalem. We're told in the Gospels that they welcomed him by waving palm branches and shouting *Hosannas!*...

...and yet, it wasn't long before those positive expressions of praise turned into cries clamoring for Jesus' crucifixion. And in all reality, if we're honest, we would have joined those cries for violence as much as we would have joined the songs of praise.

You see, we, too, want a king who would destroy our enemies...not one who would quietly to his death.

We want a king who would condemn the injustice of others...not one who would show us the sin in ourselves.

We want a king who would rule in strength and power...not one who would choose vulnerability and forgiveness as his sword and shield.

We still honor Jesus as King...it's just that his crown turned out to be made of thorns and his throne a bloody cross.

So now the tone of our worship changes. Now we leave behind the short-lived celebration of life, and watch as Jesus walks that lonesome path of suffering and death.

Follow him this week... Follow him to Maundy Thursday; come and experience the profound and radical way that Jesus serves us.

Follow him to Good Friday; come and dwell in the aching shadow of our Savior's death. Ironically, this is the very gift of life for us – for all people – as Jesus' death unites him with us, confirms that he is one **of** us, that he is one **with** us.

And then follow him to Easter Sunday; come and hear the good news that, as the Apostle Paul says, *If we have been **united** with Jesus in a **death** like his, we will **certainly** be united with him in a **resurrection** like his* (Romans 6:5).

But today...now...we will follow Jesus, along with the disciples, the women, and the crowds, into that valley of the shadow of death, as we hear the beginning of that Old, Old Story of Jesus and his Love.