

Holy Week

Sunday, April 10

Mark 11:1-10

Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

11When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, ‘Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, “Why are you doing this?” just say this, “The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.” ’ ⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, ‘What are you doing, untying the colt?’ ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, ‘Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!’
¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!’

What does it mean to be “blessed by God?”

Is a blessing from God different from a blessing from society?

The crowd called Jesus blessed as he entered Jerusalem for the final time.

In addition, they recognized a coming kingdom that would be blessed.

What does the word “blessed” mean in this passage from Mark?

Pray slowly and deliberately the Lord’s Prayer.

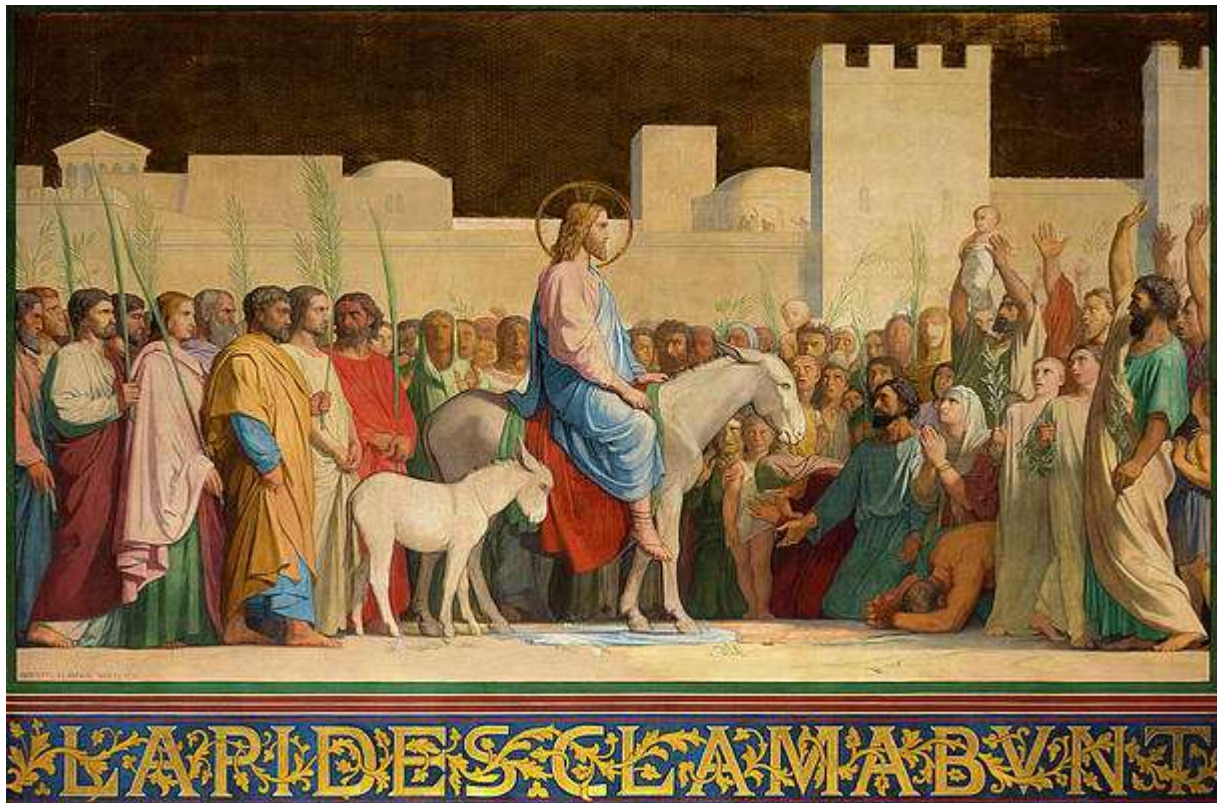
Substitute “sins” for “debts” and “those who sin against us” for “debtors.”

Monday, April 11

Anthony van Dyck one of the most prominent **Flemish Baroque** painters of the 17th century.

Van Dyck was the seventh of 12 children of Frans van Dyck, a well-to-do **silk** merchant. At the age of 10, he was apprenticed to Hendrik van Balen, a successful **Antwerp** painter, and he must soon have come under the influence of Rubens, who after 1608 assumed undisputed leadership of art in Antwerp.

In works done in Italy he and his patrons appear to have realized that his talent was suited better to themes involving tender emotion than to themes of violent action.



Study this painting of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Notice the colors. Notice the expressions on the faces.

What emotions are being felt by Jesus and those in the crowd?

Are you comforted or disturbed by the painting?

Pray slowly and deliberately the Lord's Prayer.

What does it mean to pray for "daily bread" in our society of excess?

Tuesday, April 12

Mark 14:12 - 25

The Passover with the Disciples

12 On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, ‘Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?’ ¹³So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, ‘Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, ¹⁴and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, “The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?”’ ¹⁵He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.’ ¹⁶So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal. **17** When it was evening, he came with the twelve. ¹⁸And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, ‘Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.’ ¹⁹They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, ‘Surely, not I?’ ²⁰He said to them, ‘It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. ²¹For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.’

The Institution of the Lord’s Supper

22 While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, ‘Take; this is my body.’ ²³Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. ²⁴He said to them, ‘This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.’

With a simple loaf of bread and cup of wine, Jesus calls us to remember him and his sacrifice.

Are there times when you feel unworthy to receive Communion? Why?

Are there times when Communion feels mundane and ritualistic, without life and joy? Why?

Are there times when Jesus is there filling you with His Spirit, empowering you to leave the table and seek God’s will for your life? Why?

Pray slowly and deliberately the Lord’s Prayer.

What does it mean to you to call God, “Father?”

Wednesday, April 13



This is an Ethiopian painting, which your pastor has on her office door. Notice the vibrant colors. Take note of the similarity of the disciples. Can you identify Judas?

There is ONE CUP, but THREE “loaves” of bread.

The three bowls on pedestals hold “injera.” This is the bread of Ethiopia. It is pancake type bread, with little flavor that is used as an eating utensil. One breaks off a piece of the injera and uses it to grab the meat or vegetable, then eats both the bread and what it contains.

Does this painting give you a different understanding of Communion in another country?

Pray slowly and deliberately the Lord’s Prayer.

Replace “lead us not into temptation” with “deliver us from the evil one.”

Thursday, April 14

Mark 15: 21- 32

The Crucifixion of Jesus

21 They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. ²²Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). ²³And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. ²⁴And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. **25** It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶The inscription of the charge against him read, 'The King of the Jews.' ²⁷And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰save yourself, and come down from the cross!' ³¹In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³²Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.' Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

Notice the details that Mark reports in this passage:

- Simon of Cyrene
- The wine offered him
- The dividing of the clothes and casting of lots
- The inscription
- The time of day
- The bandits
- Those passing by

Why do you think Mark was so intent on reporting the details?

Where do you find yourself in this Scripture?

When we sin, how do we crucify Jesus once again?

Say slowly and deliberately The Apostles' Creed.

Friday, April 15

Pietro Lorenzetti, (born c. 1280/90, Siena?, Republic of Siena [Italy]— died c. 1348, Siena), Italian Gothic painter of the Siennese school who with his brother Ambrogio was the principal exponent of Siennese secular art in the years before the Black Death. Little is known of Lorenzetti’s life, and the attribution and dating of many of the works associated with him remains hazardous.



**Study the painting. Notice the dark colors.
Take note of the Guards and their location in the painting.
Pay attention to the blood flowing from Jesus’ side.
Who is the woman in royal blue?**

Say slowly and deliberately The Apostles’ Creed.

Saturday, April 15

Mark 15:33-41

The Death of Jesus

33 When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' ³⁵When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.' ³⁶And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.' ³⁷Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

40 There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. ⁴¹These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

And now we wait.

All week we have held in tension the events of Holy Week and the realization that Easter does come.

The Resurrection, new life, and eternal life are NOT a hope, but a reality.

Thank you for intentionally waking through Holy Week.

It is much easier to skip from the parade of Palm Sunday and the empty tomb WITHOUT trekking to the foot of the cross.

Pray your own prayer of gratitude for the sacrifice of our Lord and Jesus.