

vii. Notice the sins that condemn – The ones omitted, not committed. Jesus said: ^{NAU} **John 3:18** “...he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

viii. Notice the second group – The devil, his angels, and all who reject Jesus – *thus follow the devil and his angels. Therefore, being saved in Christ, let us live compassionately!*

- n. (26:1-5) The Jewish leaders – *planned to arrest and kill Jesus!*
- o. (26:6-13) Perfume was poured on Jesus – *in preparation for His burial!*

4. **Holy Wednesday** (26:14-16): Judas – *agreed to betray!*

5. **Holy / Maundy Thursday:**

- a. (26:17-30) Jesus – *ate the Last Supper and instituted the Lord’s Supper!*
- b. (26:36-46) Jesus prayed – *in Gethsemane!*

6. **Holy / Good Friday:**

- a. (26:47-56) Jesus – *betrayed and arrested!*
- b. (26:57-68) Jesus – *on trial!*
- c. (26:69-75) Peter – *denied Jesus!*
- d. (27:1-10) Judas – *hanged himself!*
- e. (27:11-26) Jesus – *before Pilate!*
- f. (27:27-32) Jesus – *is mocked!*
- g. (27:33-56) Jesus – *is crucified!*
- h. (27:57-61) Jesus – *is buried!*

7. **Holy Saturday** (27:62-66): Jesus’ tomb – *made secure!*

Conclusion: Now, ready for Jesus’ return – *by grace through faith, let us honor the Triune God by taking compassionate action to care for the needs of others! Amen!*

Recent sermons are available on Bethlehem’s website: www.blc7500.com
Please share them with your family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers!
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7500 State Rd., Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230

“Holy Week – Part 2”

Based on Matthew Chapters 21-27 NAU

Palm Sunday / Sunday of the Passion – 2011

April 17 → 8:00 & 10:45

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, it is Palm Sunday, *the beginning of Holy Week!* Today we continue to remember some of our Savior’s key teachings – before He went to the cross to take away the sins of the world:

1. **Palm Sunday** (21:1-11): Jesus was welcomed – *as the Promised Messiah!*
2. **Holy Monday** (21:12-17): Jesus drove out the merchants – *to bless all who gathered to receive God’s blessings!*
3. **Holy Tuesday** (21:18-26:13): Jesus taught so much! *Let us listen, understand, and benefit!*
 - a. (21:18-22) Jesus cursed the fig tree – *it withered!*
 - b. (21:23-27) Jesus acted – *under God’s authority; however, members of the Sanhedrin – the Jewish rulers – rejected both John and Jesus!*
 - c. **21:28-32** Jesus, *speaking to those same members of the Sanhedrin, taught about two sons to show who is repentant and who is not!*
 - d. (21:33-46) Jesus taught about those who rented the vineyard – *to show the wickedness of the Jewish leaders!*
 - e. **22:1-14** Jesus taught about a wedding banquet – *to show that all are welcome, but that each person must be clothed with Jesus the Christ!*
 - f. (22:15-22) Jesus taught – *give to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s!*
 - g. (22:23-33) Jesus taught that after the resurrection – *people will not be married!*

- h. (22:34-46) Jesus taught the two greatest commandments – *love toward God and neighbor!*
- i. (23:1-39) Jesus boldly identified the teachers of the law and Pharisees as hypocrites – *to warn the people and transform the leaders!*
- j. (24:1-51) Jesus taught about His return – *the signs and our inability to know exactly when!*
- k. (25:1-13) Jesus taught us to **live expectantly** – *always ready for His return (read 1-13)! Their faith showed by their readiness!*
 - i. How is a Jewish wedding feast like the kingdom of heaven? A man and woman are engaged, *virtually married*, yet they have not been together like husband and wife. When engaged, a day is planned on which the groom and his friends will come to take the bride and her friends back to his or his father's home for the consummation and wedding festivities. *The church is the bride waiting for Jesus, the Bridegroom, to take us to heaven!*
 - ii. What are some important symbols in the parable? **Ten** – *all people throughout time who think they are Christians.* **Lamps** – *the outward form of Christian lives.* **Oil** – *faith.* **Flames** – *works that flow from faith.* **Delay** – *as the bridegroom delayed, so is Jesus.*
 - iii. How did all ten indicate they thought were ready? *They were sleeping!* Like a ready-firefighter in the middle of the night, they each thought they were ready!
 - iv. How did things turn out? The bridegroom came and they all tried to light their lamps; those with oil/faith were ready, but the others were not. The ready ones entered and

“the door was shut.” When the others finally came, the Lord said to them: “Truly I say to you, I do not know you.” **Therefore, by God's work through His Word, may we be ever-ready for Jesus return!**

- l. (25:14-30) Jesus taught us to **live responsibly** – *using our blessings productively!*
- m. (25:31-46) Jesus taught us to **live compassionately** – *by taking action for those in need (read 31-46)! Their faith showed by their deeds!*
 - i. The gathering – **When** – Jesus comes, **by** – the holy angels, and **for** – making known why some are saved and others are condemned.
 - ii. Why emphasize works? *GOD sees saving faith*, not us; therefore, on the last day, *to justify who is saved and who is condemned*, Jesus will point to works – *only works which come from faith!* So even though many appear to have legitimate works today, *only God sees the faith and knows of their legitimacy!*
 - iii. The works are simple (not like 7:22) – giving food, water, or clothes; showing hospitality, visiting – **“works which even the smallest faith can easily produce.”** (Lenski, 992)
 - iv. The works are done to Jesus – Why? He is the inner motive for our works; ^{NAU} **1 John 4:19** **“We love, because God first loved us”** by *saving us!*
 - v. The works are done by the righteous – *God makes people that way through Jesus!*
 - vi. The righteous are surprised about their works – Why? They kept no record because they trusted solely in Jesus, *not in their works!*