

**+ Our Lenten Journey to the Cross & The Empty Tomb”**  
**Biblically We Take a Look at Jesus & The Crowds**



**+ The People of Mount Zion-Finksburg +**  
**Fifth Sunday in the Season of Lent+ March 26, 2023+**  
**Worship 9:55 a.m.**

Wm. Louis Piel Pastor + Leslie Gabler, Director of Music  
Ushers LaDonna Schemm & Eddie Wessel + Sammy, Jim, Melanie +

**TODAY’S KEY PASSAGES OF HOLY SCRIPTURE +**

+ NOTE: Today, we have placed the key Bible passages on a separate sheet in the worship bulletin. They deal with our Pastor’s message concerning the relationship of Jesus and the Crowds that followed Him. The lessons are found on the blue sheets in the worship bulletin.

**Musical Prelude** Let us prepare for the worship of God by listening. + God is still speaking +

**Our Worship Themes**

Today, Sunday March 26<sup>th</sup> Message “Jesus has to deal with the crowds who one day are with him shouting “Hosanna” and the next day “Crucify-Kill Him!”

Next Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> Palm/Passion Sunday + The Beginning of Holy Week

Plan now to worship with us on this very special week

**Congregation Singing** “I Love You Lord” (“The Faith We Sing” songbook) #2068

**Call to Worship** (Unison)

Most Holy God, you bring your light and banishing our fears  
We gather as your people and light our altar candles as a reminder  
that you are the light of the world.

They remind us of our call to be your light in our daily lives.

In this service of worship as we gather with one with another  
Fill us with your peace, that we may be peacemakers.  
Fill us with your truth, that we may speak truth to one another.  
Fill us with your courage, that we may bring hope to those who live in fear.  
Fill us with your joy, that we may be your beacons in the world.

As we read Holy Scripture, sing our hymns and lift up our prayers,  
Let us feel the presence of our Lord Jesus through your Spirit.

**Opening Prayer**

**Our Opening Hymn** “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” (Next Page)

Sing to the familiar tune "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" (Hymnal #400)  
Words by Rusty Edwards + Music "John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music" 1814

1. "Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light. Praise the One who frees the prisoners, turning blindness into sight. Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing every dread disease, calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.
2. Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word. Praise the one who drove out demons with a piercing two-edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand. From this well comes living water quenching thirst in every land.
3. Praise the one true love incarnate: Christ who suffered in our place. Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done. Praise the one redeeming glory, praise the One who makes us one. "

### **Important Reminder**

We are asking all of our people to clear your calendars and plan to worship with us during our Holy Week worship services.  
For those who follow Jesus Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday and Good Friday are foundational.

### **We Welcome our Children**

*Even if we do not have children in congregational worship we remember all God's children.*

"Jesus loves me, This I know, for the Bible tells me so, Little ones to him belong, they are weak But He is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes! Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so.

### **Affirmation of Faith** "A Modern Affirmation" Hymnal #885

### **Video** "We Come Into His House" (Please sing along!))

### **Informal Moments + Reception of our Tithes & Offerings**

Offering Response (Hymnal #95) "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

### **Anthem** "There is a Savior" + The Faithful Few

"There is a Savior, what joys express. His eyes are mercy, His Word is rest, For each tomorrow for yesterday, there is a Savior who lights our way. Are there burdens in your heart, is your past memory that binds you, is there some pain that you've carried far too long? There is a Savior and He forgiven you."

### **Message** Please turn to the page "Morning Scripture Lessons" found in this worship bulletin.

### **Morning Prayer and our Lord's Prayer** (Unison)

+ Our Prayer Song "Sanctuary" (#2164 "The Faith We Sing" songbook)

"Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true, With thanksgiving,  
I'll be a living sanctuary for you." (repeat)

As darkness gives way to light  
and winter sleep gives way to the fresh beginnings of spring.  
We come today as the people of God to be reminded of God's love for us.  
Like the green shoots of renewed life,  
stirring beneath the soil,  
We welcome an awakening of God's Word in our lives.  
In this time of reflection and repentance,  
We affirm our identity, we claim our security,

**(Unison)**

*(Let us pray the "Our Father" together)*

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us  
our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

**Message** "Please turn to the page "Morning Scripture Lessons found in this worship bulletin.

**Closing Lenten Hymn** "Lord of the Dance" UM Hymnal #261

**Closing Words – Sending Forth (In Unison)**

This morning, we have sung, we have prayed,  
we have worshiped together.  
Now we go back out into the world.  
We came together to build relationships, relationships with each other,  
and our relationship with Jesus.  
We go out as people who are strengthened by our connections  
Ready to love and to serve.  
Ready to carry God's love to the world.  
As you journey through the ups and the downs of the coming week,  
let us remember that God, who has invited us into relationship, is always with us.  
Go with God, as the people of God.  
So be it! Amen

**We Sing Together** "God be with you till we meet again, by his counsels guide uphold  
you. With his sheep securely fold you. God be with you till we meet again.  
Till we meet, till we meet. Till we meet at Jesus' feet, till we meet, till we meet. God  
be with you till we meet again."



Sunday, March 26, 2023 Jesus and The Crowds  
Jesus and the Crowds”

1. Jesus and the crowds go hand in hand
2. Mark 5.21 “When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, **a great crowd** gathered around him and he was by the sea.”
3. Mark 2.13 “Jesus went out again beside the sea, **the whole crowd** gathered around him and he taught them.
4. Luke 7.11 “Soon afterward Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and **a large crowd with him.**
5. Mark 7.24 “From there Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a home and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice.”
6. Mark 3.32 “Then the mother of Jesus and his brothers came and standing outside they sent to him and called him. A **crowd** was sitting around him and they said to Jesus, Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside asking for you. And Jesus replied who are my mother and my brothers? And looking at those who sat around him, he said, Here are my mother and my brothers. Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.
7. Luke 6.19 “And all in the crowd came trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.”
8. Luke 5.15 “Now more than ever the word about Jesus spread abroad, many crowds would gather to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. But he would withdraw to deserted places and pray.”
9. Matthew 8.1 “When Jesus had come down from the mountain **great crowds followed him** and there was a leper who came to him and knelt before him, saying, Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean.”
10. Matthew 9.36 “**When Jesus saw the crowds he was moved with compassion to the depths of his being,** for they were bewildered and dejected, like sheep who have no shepherd”

11. Mark 8.01 “In those days when there was again a great crowd without anything to eat, he called his disciples and said to them, **I have compassion for the crowd**, because they have been with me now, for three days, and have nothing to eat. If I send them away hungry to their homes they will faint on the way – and some of them have come from a great distance.”
12. Luke 9.12 “The day was drawing to a close and the twelve came to Jesus and said, Send the crowd away so that they may go into the surrounding villages and countryside to lodge and get provisions for we are in a desert place. **But Jesus said to them, You give them something to eat.**”
13. Matthew 9.6 “Jesus then said to the paralytic, stand up, take your bed, and go to your home. And the man stood up, and went to his home, When the crowds saw it, **they were filled with awe and they glorified God who had given such authority to human beings**”
14. Matthew 7.28 “Now when Jesus had finished saying these things **the crowd were astonished at his teaching**, for he taught them as one having authority and not as their scribes.”
15. Matthew 4.24ff “So **his fame spread** throughout all Syria and they brought to him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases, and pains, demoniacs, and paralytics and he cured them. And great crowds followed him.....”
16. Matthew 15.29 “After Jesus had left that place, he passed along the sea of Galilee and he went up the mountain where he sat down. **Great crowds come to him bringing with them** the lame, the maimed, the blind the mute and many others.”
17. He taught with authority + He cared for the people – +he was one of them! (compassion)  
Matthew 9.36 “When Jesus saw the crowds he was moved with compassion to the depths of his being,
18. What he taught and his life were interconnected People could identify with Jesus
19. Mob mentality, herd mentality, pack mentality, group think, or crowd psychology — the concept has many names. These all boil down to the same idea: Individuals are influenced by a larger group. Regardless of whether that group includes people in your class, your neighborhood, or an entire nation, you may experience mob mentality. the inclination that some humans have to be part of a large group, often neglecting their individual

feelings in the process, and adopting the behaviors and actions of the people around them.

20. A crowd – good influence or bad influence  
“He runs around with a bad crowd”
21. Hosanna – Palm Sunday  
Limited depth faith in him. A celebration of the moment.
22. Is it possible to follow Jesus for the wrong reason?  
Miracles – Temptation of Jesus in the Desert
23. John 6.66 “Because of this many of his disciples turned back and  
No longer went about with him.
24. When things were going good – we are with you Jesus  
When things get tough -  
When he made his decision to go to Jerusalem -
25. Matthew 21.09 ”The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them, they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road and others cut branches from the trees, and spread them on the road. **The crowds that went ahead of him and followed were shouting, Hosanna, to the Son of David, Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**”
26. Mark 15.11 But **the chief priests stirred up the crowd** to have Pilate release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, Then what do you want me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews. The crowd shouted back , Crucify him! Pilate asked them, Why, what evil has he done. But all the more they shouted Crucify him. So Pilate wishing to satisfy the crowd released Barabbas for them and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.”

# PALM SUNDAY



## A Reading for Palm Sunday

**As Jesus approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it.’”**

**Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?”**

**They replied, “The Lord needs it.”**

**They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup> As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.**

**When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”**

**Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples! I tell you Jesus replied if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”**