



Palm Sunday

Psalm 118:14-29 Acts 10:34-43 Luke 19:28-40

March 25, 2018

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There is a connection between Christmas and Palm Sunday.

At Christmas, God, the Creator of the Heavens and the earth and everything in them, came into His world, born as a baby in a manger in Bethlehem. He was given the name “Jesus” because He would save His people from their sins. The Prophets had called Him the “Prince of Peace” because He would bring peace between God and men.

One part of the Christmas story were angels who appeared to the Shepherds, telling them about the birth of “Christ the Lord” in Bethlehem, Who was wrapped in swaddling cloths. After the angel announcement, then a “**plethora**” of angels filled the sky singing this song of praise:

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. LUKE 2:14

This song of praise signaled that Jesus would bring **peace** between God and men through His work as Savior of the World. All of heaven was rejoicing at the birth of Christ.

Now its 33 years later, on Palm Sunday, and Jesus the King is entering the holy and royal city of Jerusalem to suffer and die for the sins of the world. A large crowd of people have gathered around Him, they are waving palms, laying their coats on the ground, and they are singing. The Gospel of Luke records part of the song they were singing:

“Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” LUKE 19:38

At Christmas, *the angels* sang
“**Peace on Earth!**”;
on Palm Sunday, *the people* are singing
“**Peace in Heaven!**”

As Holy Week begins, both heaven and earth are singing about the work the Savior will do to bring **peace between God and men** through His suffering, death and resurrection!

God our Creator is both the Christmas Savior born in Bethlehem and the Palm Sunday King who enters Jerusalem to bring **PEACE to you and all people!**

We certainly need this peace!

Our sins have “*disturbed the peace*”; in fact, your sin has shattered the peace between you and God. Sin creates a hostile environment between you and God. Your sinful nature rebels against God at every point; we chase after idols and pursue all forms of immorality, iniquity and insolent behavior.

You can even feel this “*broken peace*” that you have with God because of sin. You can feel this *broken peace* in two ways.

1. **A guilty conscience.** A guilty conscience means that you have sinned against God and against other people. You know what that feels like. It’s a terror in your spirit, it is sharp accusation within you, it is impending doom, it is a heavy burden. A guilty conscience means that you have violated the Law of God and you have broken the Ten Commandments. You have sinned against God and against other people. A guilty conscience can turn your whole life upside down; and a guilty conscience feels **horribly miserable**... right? A guilty conscience is the feeling of the broken peace between you and God.
2. **Fear of Death.** A second way that you can feel the “*broken peace*” that you have with God is the fear and dread of death and dying. That anxiety you have about death and dying is another sign of the broken relationship between you and God. The fear of death can paralyze you. Death means that you have sinned, and you have fallen short of God’s holy, perfect, and righteous standard. Death means that you have sinned against the holy and righteous God and His Law.

You can feel the “*broken peace*” that we have with God in a guilty conscience and the fear of death and dying.

You cannot soothe a guilty conscience on your own any more than you can escape death and dying on your own. Your own good works cannot stop death from coming! We need help! We need someone to make peace with God for us and on our behalf.

THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT JESUS DOES. He was born in Bethlehem and entered Jerusalem to be your Peacemaker. He is the Prince of Peace. He is the Mediator between you and God.

Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday with the full intention of suffering and dying on a cross with all of your sin and guilt. This is why He was born in Bethlehem; this is His work for you as the Savior of the world. You have peace with God because Jesus died on the cross with all of your sin and all of your guilt; He was buried with all of your rebellion, immorality, iniquity and insolent behavior. When He rose from the dead on the third day, you are set free from sins and declared forgiven. Because of the death of Christ on the cross, you have peace with God rather than a guilty conscience. Because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, you no longer fear death because you have eternal life, and God has promised you the resurrection of the dead on the Last Day!

Today believe that Jesus is your peacemaker; the Prince of Peace, the Mediator between you and God. Your sins are forgiven, your guilty conscience is soothed, and you will live when you die!

No wonder the angels at Christmas and the people on Palm Sunday were singing *“Glory to God in the highest: **peace on earth and peace in Heaven!**”* Jesus is our peacemaker; He has reconciled heaven and earth! He is the Mediator between God and men!

This peace that we have with God that comes only through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the message of the Holy Christian Church; and specifically, the Gospel that we believe, teach and confess here in our congregation at Trinity. This is why we exist...to let people know that Jesus is the Peacemaker: He is the Mediator who forgives their sins, soothes their guilty consciences, and takes the fear out of death and dying by giving them eternal life. This is nothing other than the Gospel itself! That is the message that we believe, teach, and confess here at Trinity.

Our **ADVANCING THE GOSPEL** campaign helps keep that message going in this area long after we are gone. The **Advancing the Gospel** campaign will help pay for this beautiful campus that we and our families enjoy, and where we have heard the Gospel of Peace in Christ and grown in faith. Your “above and beyond” **Advancing the Gospel** gift will help future generations have this beautiful place where they and their families can also hear about Jesus the Peacemaker, the Mediator who forgives their sins, soothes their guilty consciences, and takes the fear out of death and dying by giving them eternal life. I hope that you have prayed about this campaign, and you will join us as together we **Advance the Gospel** of the Lord Jesus Christ!



This peace that we have with God -- that comes only through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ -- also empowers us to live at peace with other people. We do not live our lives “**disturbing the peace**” with other people. We learn from Christ to be **peacemakers** -- *as far as it depends on us, we live at peace with all people.* Maybe there are some broken relationships in your life that you need to mend. In Christ, you are empowered to take the first step towards peace, maybe even the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th steps as well. We learn from Christ to be **peacemakers** -- *as far as it depends on you, live at peace with other people.*

HOLY WEEK BEGINS TODAY.

This week we remember the suffering and death of Christ that earned our peace with God. Jesus was beaten, spit on, insulted, mocked, and forced to wear a crown of thorns. He was crucified and buried. On the third day, He rose from the dead! Holy week tells is the story of our peace: the peace we have with God because of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The **angels** in Heaven sang about this peace with God
The **people** on Palm Sunday echoed their song of Peace
 between Heaven and earth; God and Man;
And today **we** add our songs of praise and rejoice
 that we have peace with God though our Lord Jesus Christ!

Amen!