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April 5, 2020

LOVE FIRST, FIRST LOVE

Weekly Devotional based on Sunday's worship service

Join us for worship on Sundays 9:00 AM at

[Www.FirstLutheran-Barron.org](http://www.FirstLutheran-Barron.org) or on the radio 97.7FM

MARK 11:1-11 The Message (MSG)

When they were nearing Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany on Mount Olives, he sent off two of the disciples with instructions: "Go to the village across from you. As soon as you enter, you'll find a colt tethered, one that has never yet been ridden. Untie it and bring it. If anyone asks, 'What are you doing?' say, 'The Master needs him, and will return him right away.'" They went and found a colt tied to a door at the street corner and untied it. Some of those standing there said, "What are you doing untying that colt?" The disciples replied exactly as Jesus had instructed them, and the people let them alone. They brought the colt to Jesus, spread their coats on it, and he mounted. The people gave him a wonderful welcome, some throwing their coats on the street, others spreading out rushes they had cut in the fields. Running ahead and following after, they were calling out,

Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in God's name!

Blessed the coming kingdom of our father David!

Hosanna in highest heaven!

Jesus entered Jerusalem, then entered the Temple. He looked around, taking it all in. But by now it was late, so he went back to Bethany with the Twelve.

REFLECTION

BY PASTOR RON MATHEWS

Hosanna comes from a Hebrew word meaning "help" or "save, I pray"

The people were praying, they were shouting "save us! Blessed be the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" Hosanna in the highest heaven!

But within a week, the same crowd that yelled "We love him!" would later yell "Crucify him!" How much anger and feeling of betrayal that settled in their hearts that they will pursue killing this man.

The very people who praised Jesus' name condemned him to die.

Why? Because they were disappointed. They wanted a leader who was going to bring an army to save them from Roman rule. Their perspective was so small looking only at themselves that they couldn't see they got something so much greater. They wanted the King of the Jews, what they got was the King of Kings. They got something so much greater, and they were disappointed because it was greater. The people were betrayed by their own expectations.

God wants us to welcome Jesus into our lives to be the King of Kings, to be the Lord over us. To live as he has commanded us – **Love God and Love Others**. That is what it means to say "Christ is my Lord, Christ is the King of my life." Christ is not our king for the day, or our current moment. Christ is King of Kings.

What makes Jesus King of Kings is this: He rode into Jerusalem to die. Death was always the plan for Jesus. He had to be crucified on the cross. Without Christ's death, there would be no Easter. Sin and death would still have a grip on our hearts. The Devil would continue to have supreme power and authority. The power of sin is death. And death would continue to have its sting without the resurrection.

At Easter we celebrate Christ's conquering sin, death, and the Devil. Because of the resurrection, sin no longer controls us; death lost its authority over us; the devil has no place in our hearts. We are freed by the cross – by Christ's suffering, death, and victorious rising again.

For this reason alone we cry: "Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest! Help me Lord! Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Hosanna! King of all, you reign over all. Reign in our lives, triumph over evil, and teach us to follow in your footsteps. Amen.



LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who 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 who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.