

Sunday, March 28 – **Palm/Passion Sunday**

Readings: *Palms* Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Luke 19:28-40

Passion Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 22:14—23:56

Prayer: *Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen*⁷⁰

Focal Verse: “Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.” Philippians 2:5-8

Reflection:

To be a Christian is to take the yoke of Christ. Farmers use yokes to harness or bind cattle or oxen together to plow. When believing stewards bear Christ’s yoke, then Christ controls them; in the Philippians’ case these stewards have the mind of Christ. In a biblical irony, the yoke is not a heavy burden. Rather, as Jesus tells the crowds who have ears to hear: “For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:30).

We live in a culture that denies death, as well as most other unpleasant things: servanthood, obedience, and surrender to God. People habitually deny reality without considering the consequences of that denial. This is too often true for churches and the stewardship gifts that make ministry and mission possible.

If we do not allow our pastors and other leaders to teach us what God expects of Christian stewards, then how can we tackle our faith task? The point of Christian stewardship is not to repay God what we owe God. The point of Christian stewardship is to share what God has given us with those with whom God wants us to share. When we share God’s bounty; then we live up to Scripture’s promise. We stewards also possess the mind of Christ.⁷¹

What do you hear?

How does it make you feel?

Toward what are you being drawn?

What do you sense you should do?

⁷⁰ Evangelical Lutheran Worship

⁷¹ Mosser, David, *The Stewardship Companion*, Westminster John Knox Press, © 2007, p. 192-3.