

April 5, 2020

Dear Members, Friends, and Guests of Desert Hills Lutheran Church,

Welcome to Holy Week. Today is called Palm/Passion Sunday. When I first started in ministry forty years ago, it was just Palm Sunday. Somewhere along the way, it became Palm/Passion, like bookends on Holy Week. It starts with palms being waved as Jesus enters the city of Jerusalem and ends with the passion of giving His life on the cross. This week is about God's plan for all humanity. Paul, writing to the Ephesians, said this in Ephesians 1:9-10

“**9** For he has made known to us in all wisdom and insight the mystery of his will, according to his purpose which he set forth in Christ **10** as a plan for the fulness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.”

Holy Week is the greatest week in human history, because during those 8 days, God set out his purpose to unite all things in heaven and on earth in Christ. Do I think a virus is going to stop this plan? No way. The plan is still in place and is moving ahead.

Have any of you had erratic sleep habits? I'm guessing yes. I was up at 2:30 am this morning. I'm guessing it is part of the stress and tension of a pandemic. I could say that I was just so excited for Palm/Passion Sunday that I couldn't sleep, but I wish I could have welcomed it with three more hours of sleep. I tried to say the Lord's Prayer over and over, but even that didn't do it. So, I read emails, read a book and prayed.

Every day, we must make sure we pray. We pray for our family and friends. We pray for everyone who comes to mind. We pray for those who are sick, for those caring for the sick, and for an end of quarantines. We pray for all those suffering financial breakdowns. We pray for God's plan to unite all things in Him, in heaven and on earth. There is a war going on. We must pray constantly and...perhaps sneak in a nap.

Blessings on this Palm/Passion Weekend,

Pastor Martin

P.S. A huge thank you to our oldest son, Sam, for spending 45 minutes on the phone today helping me figure out a TV sound issue. You are my Obi-wan Kenobi, when it comes to the digital world.