

**TODAY'S WORSHIP NOTES**

What is the church season or special day? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the color of the altar cloths today? (circle one)

- White** perfection, joy, purity                      **Black** absence of color; symbolic of death
- Blue** hope    **Green** life, nourishment
- Purple** royalty, mourning, repentance      **Gold** royalty, riches, victory
- Red** fire, fervor, blood, martyrdom, victory in the blood of Christ

How does the color of the day fit the theme of the day? \_\_\_\_\_

What led our singing today? video organ piano other

Did we have special music today? choir soloist guest musicians

Did we have a sacrament today?

- |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Communion?</b>            | <b>Baptism?</b>              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No  | <input type="checkbox"/> No  |

The sermon text is: \_\_\_\_\_, found in Old Testament New Testament

What did I learn today about God, myself, or my Christian faith? \_\_\_\_\_

What was my favorite song today? \_\_\_\_\_

Did we do something special or out of the ordinary in worship today? \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to ask pastor this question (*in person, text or email!*): \_\_\_\_\_



**Palm Sunday**

A cavalry charge was an impressive thing - thundering hooves, riders holding their weapons forward, quickly closing ground with the enemy at a gallop. It was used to panic the enemy, to smash through the enemy lines, or to be a threatening show of force. When Jesus came to Jerusalem for his final confrontation with Satan, sin, death, and hell, it didn't look like much of a cavalry charge. He had no army. He was sitting on a donkey, of all things. No thundering hooves, just the plodding clip-clop of little hooves on stone pavement. He had no weapons of any kind that anyone could see. What good could possibly come from this? As it would turn out by week's end – much! Today we see our Victor entering his city with true victory in mind. He is calm, determined, and certain that by week's end, he would be victorious and his victory would be our victory!

**Ascension Lutheran Church**

March 24, 2024

# Welcome to worship today at Ascension!

⌘ Our order of service today is from the new Christian Worship. Our goal is to provide variety in worship, retain the best of our Christian hymns, add new hymns, and help worshippers to become comfortable and familiar with new things even as we treasure the old.

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Children’s activity pages printed under subscription to Sermon 4 Kids, Inc. 831 Why

⌘ **Our Mission:** Ascension exists to proclaim the joy of Jesus Christ in the Macomb County area by gathering to grow in the timeless truths of the Bible and by scattering to share the hope of heaven with everyone we meet.

⌘ **Would you like to know more about Ascension Lutheran Church?** Please contact Pastor Dan Simons at revdsimons@gmail.com. Phone or text: 586-569-9895. Visit us at [www.ascensionmacomb.com](http://www.ascensionmacomb.com) or you can also like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/ALCmacomb](https://www.facebook.com/ALCmacomb).

⌘ **Need to connect to Wi-Fi here at church?**

Our Wi-Fi name is ASCENSION Guest. Password is macombwels.

⌘ **Thanks to those who serve us today**

Worship accompanist - Gloria Aita; Recording/Streaming Engineers – Sandy Borkowski, Paul Kokesh; Security – Paul Fuller; Worship Leader /Preacher – Pastor Dan Simons.

# Worship the LORD

## Opening Hymn

## 413 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna



1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, the lit - tle chil-dren sang;  
2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed mid an ex - ult - ant crowd,  
3 “Ho - san - na in the high - est!” that an-cient song we sing,



thro’ pil-lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang.  
the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing and chant-ing clear and loud.  
for Christ is our Re - deem-er, the Lord of heav’n, our King.



To Je - sus, who had blessed them, close fold - ed to his breast,  
The Lord of earth and heav - en rode on in low - ly state  
Oh, may we ev - er praise him with heart and life and voice



the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim-plest and the best.  
nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren should on his bid-ding wait.  
and in his roy - al pres - ence e - ter - nal - ly re - joi-ce.

Text: Jeannette Threlfall, 1821–1880, alt.  
Tune: Gesang-Buch Herzogl. Hofkapelle, Württemberg, 1784  
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

### Invocation

M: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

### Confession

M: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: **If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: **Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

### Silence for meditation and reflection

M: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

### Lord, Have Mercy

M: In peace let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

M: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

M: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

M: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

M: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

### Glory Be to God

Sung by all



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,

God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;  
 O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;  
 have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.  
 You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.  
 For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the  
 Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

## The Word

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

We praise you, O God, for the great acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ. As he was acclaimed by those who scattered their garments and branches of palms in his path, so may we always hail him as our King and follow him with perfect confidence; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

**Zechariah 9:9-12**

*God showed his Old Testament prophet Zechariah a striking picture of the coming Messiah. He would be the King of his people, but so much better than the kings they had known of late. Those kings had been weak, sinful, and too often just bad decision-makers. When Messiah came, he would come in humility, but he would come to be victorious over their enemies by his own blood. That picture was fulfilled in the dramatic events that began on the day we call Palm Sunday. By the end of that week, the blood of God's covenant would release us and all people from the prison of guilt! Sin, death, Satan, and hell would be stripped of their power to hold us!*

Rejoice greatly, Daughter of Zion!

Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem!

Look! Your King is coming to you.

He is righteous and brings salvation.

He is humble and is riding on a donkey,  
 on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

<sup>10</sup> I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim  
 and the horse from Jerusalem.

The battle bow will be taken away,  
 and he will proclaim peace to the nations.

His kingdom will extend from sea to sea,  
 from the [Euphrates] River to the ends of the earth.

<sup>11</sup> As for you,

because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will release your prisoners from the waterless pit.

<sup>12</sup> Return to the stronghold, you prisoners who have hope.

This very day I declare that I will restore double to you.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn to Welcome the King! 313 Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes**

*This hymn is familiar to us from the Advent season. Why sing it today? It echoes the praise with which the people welcomed Jesus on Palm Sunday. It also pictures so beautifully the wonderful blessings he would secure for us in the week that followed.*



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
 bond - age held; the gates of brass be -  
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751, abr., alt.  
 Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820, alt.  
 Text and tune: Public domain

**Second Reading**

**Hebrews 12:1-3**

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us get rid of every burden and the sin that so easily ensnares us, and let us run with patient endurance the race that is laid out for us. <sup>2</sup> Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who is the author of our faith and the one who brings it to its goal. In view of the joy set before him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of God's throne. <sup>3</sup> Carefully consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinful people, so that you do not grow weary and lose heart.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn of Encouragement**

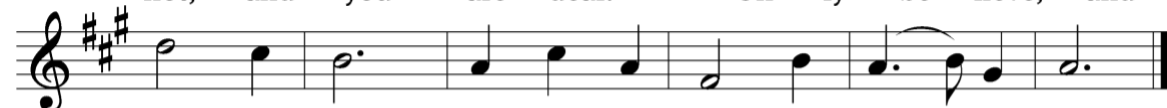
**876:2, 4 Fight the Good Fight**



2 Run the straight race through God's good grace; lift up your  
 4 Faint not nor fear, his arms are near; he chang - es



eyes and seek his face. Life with its way be -  
 not, and you are dear. On - ly be - lieve, and



fore us lies; Christ is the path and Christ the prize.  
 you will see that Christ is Lord e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-1875, alt.; Tune: The Methodist Harmonist, New York, 1821; Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

## Gospel

Mark 11:1-10

***Zechariah’s vision came to pass! Jesus knew what lay ahead – if he knew the little details about where to find a donkey, he certainly knew about the crown of thorns and the cross. And still he came!***

As they approached Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, on the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup> and told them, “Go into the village ahead of you. As soon as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>3</sup> If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it, and he will send it back here without delay.’”

<sup>4</sup> They left and found a colt on the street, tied at a door; and they untied it. <sup>5</sup> Some who were standing there asked them, “What are you doing, untying that colt?” <sup>6</sup> The disciples answered them just as Jesus had instructed them, and the men let them go.

<sup>7</sup> They brought the colt to Jesus, threw their garments on it, and Jesus sat on it. <sup>8</sup> Many people spread their garments on the road. Others spread branches that they had cut from the fields. <sup>9</sup> Those who went in front and those who followed were crying out,

Hosanna!<sup>[a]</sup>

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!

Hosanna in the highest!

## Footnotes

a. Mark 11:9 *Hosanna* means *save us* or *help us, we pray*.

b. Mark 11:9 Psalm 118:25-26

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

Be seated

## Children’s Message

**“Palm branches for them and for you!”**

After singing the first stanza of our Sermon Hymn, we will pause so that the children can gather on the chancel steps for a Children’s Message. At the conclusion of that message, we will sing the remaining four stanzas of the hymn.

## Sermon Hymn

## 411 Ride On, Ride On in Majesty



1 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Hark! All the  
2 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly  
3 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! The an - gel  
4 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Your last and  
5 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly



tribes ho - san - na cry. O Sav - ior meek, pur -  
pomp ride on to die. O Christ, your tri - umphs  
ar - mies of the sky look down with sad and  
fierc - est strife is nigh. The Fa - ther on his  
pomp ride on to die. Bow your meek head to



sue your road, with palms and scat - tered gar - ments strowed.  
now be - gin o’er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.  
won - d’ring eyes to see th’ ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.  
sap - phire throne a - waits his own a - noint - ed Son.  
mor - tal pain, then take, O Christ, your pow’r and reign.

Text: Henry H. Milman, 1791–1868, alt.

Tune: Musicalisch Hand-Buch der Geistlichen Melodien, Hamburg, 1690, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

Hebrews 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us get rid of every burden and the sin that so easily ensnares us, and let us run with patient endurance the race that is laid out for us. <sup>2</sup> Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who is the author of our faith and the one who brings it to its goal. In view of the joy set before him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of God's throne. <sup>3</sup> Carefully consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinful people, so that you do not grow weary and lose heart.

**Keep Running the Race Laid Out for You!**

*Stand*

## Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Be seated*

## Offering

Our praise and worship are not the only palm branches with which we honor our King. The fruits of faith the Holy Spirit grows in us means that we honor Jesus with our very selves. Regarding those gifts that represent our time, effort, sweat, and sacrifice, many worshippers prefer to use offering envelopes each week. If you do not have offering envelopes and would like a set, please ask. We will be glad to provide them, whether you are member or not. A growing number of our worshippers choose to give their offerings online using our website. You can do so at [www.ascensionmacomb.com](http://www.ascensionmacomb.com). Click on the WATCH A SERVICE tile, then scroll down to the GIVE NOW button to make an offering or to set up an automatic recurring offering. Whichever way you choose to give your gift to the Lord, it is an important part of worship. That's why each week we take this time in our worship to acknowledge that with an offering hymn.

**“Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver.”**

(2 Corinthians 9:7)

## Offering Hymn

## 595 Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing



1 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's sow - ing, may we rip - en  
2 Lad - en branch - es free - ly bear - ing gifts the Giv - er  
3 Root - ed deep in Christ our Mas - ter, Christ our pat - tern  
4 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's tend - ing, may we grow till



and in - crease, fruit to life e - ter - nal grow - ing,  
loves to bless; here is fruit that grows by shar - ing,  
and our goal, teach us, as the years fly fast - er,  
har - vests cease; till we taste, in life un - end - ing,



rich in love and joy and peace.  
pa - tience, kind - ness, gen - tle - ness.  
good - ness, faith, and self - con - trol.  
heav - en's love and joy and peace.

*Stand*

## **Palm Sunday Prayer of the Church**

M: Lord Jesus, You are the king of heaven and earth.

**C: We join the first Palm Sunday worshipers in glorifying You for coming to this earth to be our Savior.**

M: Though You are one with God the Father and Lord of all, You humbled Yourself and become one with us.

**C: We praise Your blessed name for living a life of perfect conformity to God's holy law in our place, never yielding to the temptations of Satan to which we so easily fall.**

M: How we thank You for being obedient to death, even death on a despised cross, in order to redeem us from sin and its eternal curse!

**C: Cause our voices to blend with those who sang Your praises as You rode into Jerusalem: "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" Move us to confess You, without fear, before others as our Lord.**

M: Help us proclaim the message of peace and forgiveness to people of all nations so that they, too, may learn the blessing of calling on You with their "Hosannas" for help and deliverance from sin and its devastation on their lives.

**C: Bless the work of our missionaries and our various evangelism programs at home and abroad. Prosper the endeavors of our worker training schools to prepare well-trained Kingdom workers to meet the spiritual needs of a chaotic, rebellious, and sinful world with the solid messages of Your Law and Gospel, repentance and forgiveness.**

M: Use us to assure all people that Your blood has cleansed them from sin and set them free from slavery to sin, death, and the devil. Then, with sanctified hearts and lives, move us to dedicate all we are and have to Your glory.

**C: Bring back the erring, the delinquent, and those who have forsaken You for the foolishness of their own selfish, worldly ways. Help them see that the thinking and practice of we sinners will always drift away from a loving relationship with You when we lose close contact with You, Your Word, and faithful worship and use of the sacraments.**

M: As You are King of all the earth, provide the nations of this world with humble and wise rulers and good government who desire to do Your will, not their own.

**C: If it be Your will, grant peace in our time so that Your Church might reach into lands around the world where people do not know Your saving grace.**

M: Grant success to the businesses and industries of our land to serve for the common good in products and services and in the employment of our citizenry. Cause employers to be honest, fair, and encouraging and all employees to be diligent, faithful, and caring in their work.

**C: Look with favor on our nation's schools of all sorts, and guide those who teach and those who learn in the ways of Your truth.**

M: Comfort and give strength to the sick, the afflicted, and those whose lives are "shut-in" with the assurance of Your constant presence, care, and protection. Strengthen, also, the faith of those who are dying that they may confidently and joyfully entrust their souls into Your gracious hands.

**C: Dear Savior, as we walk with You in special ways this week toward Calvary, keep us focused on Your purpose for coming into this world and on our calling to spread this wonderful, priceless message of salvation.**

M: Hear us for Your mercy's sake, even as we further pray the prayer You gave us:

**All: 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.**

## **Blessing**

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

*Be seated*



**Closing Hymn**

**422:1-2 A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth**

1 A Lamb goes un - com - plain - ing forth, our guilt and  
 2 This Lamb is Christ, the soul's great friend, the Lamb of  
 e - vil bear - ing and, lad - en with the sins of earth,  
 God, our Sav - ior; him God the Fa - ther chose to send  
 none else the bur - den shar - ing, goes pa - tient on,  
 to gain for us his fa - vor. "Go forth, my Son,"  
 grows weak and faint, to slaugh - ter led with - out com - plaint,  
 the Fa - ther said, "and free my chil - dren from their dread  
 that spot - less life to of - fer; bears shame and stripes  
 of guilt and con - dem - na - tion. The wrath and stripes  
 and wounds and death, an - guish and mock - er - y and saith,  
 are hard to bear, but by your pas - sion they will share  
 "Will - ing all this I suf - fer."  
 the fruit of your sal - va - tion."

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, abr.; Tune: Wolfgang Dachstein, c. 1487–1553; Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. A-713900; Tune: Public domain

**THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE US TODAY**

Worship accompanist - Gloria Aita; Audio Visual Engineers – Sandy Borkowski, Paul Kokesh; Security – Paul Fuller; Worship leader and preacher – Pastor Dan Simons.

**LAST WEEK AT ASCENSION:**

Ascension members in God's house for worship - 48  
Repeat visitors in God's house for worship - 12  
First-time visitors in God's house last Sunday - 0  
Worshipped with us online - 4  
Total - 64

At the Lord's Table for Holy Communion - 42

Teens & adults growing in the Word in Bible class – 23 + 2 online

Children in Christlight for Kids – 4 children, 2 teachers

Confirmation Instruction Class - 4

Confirmation Instruction Class repeat on Monday night - 2

**48% of those who in God's house for worship stayed to grown in the Word.**

Faith conversations and invitations to worship by Ascension people: 6

Ascension people in touch with each (planning, encouraging, etc.): 24

**COMING UP AT ASCENSION:**

**Today** 9:30 a.m.....Worship w/ Children's Message  
 10:30 a.m.....Meet, Greet, and Eat  
 10:45 a.m..... Christlight for Kids: Jesus' Dying Words  
 10:45 a.m.....Parable & Word Pictures Bible Class:  
 "From Slaves to Sons through Circumcision"  
 12:00 p.m..... Confirmation Instruction Class

**Monday** 6:30 p.m.....Confirmation Class Make-up session  
 7:00 p.m.....Alcoholics Anonymous-Covenant Chapter meets at Ascension

**Tuesday** 5:00 p.m.....Set up for Mornings with Mommy

**Thurs. & Fri.** 10:00 a.m...Mornings with Mommy: Easter, Eggs & Jesus' Resurrection

**Thursday** 6:30 p.m.....Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion

**Friday** 6:30 p.m.....Good Friday Worship

**Sunday, March 31st** 9:30 a.m.....Easter Worship with Holy Communion  
 10:30 a.m..... Meet, Greet, and Eat  
 10:30 a.m.....Children's Easter Egg Hunt

**LUTHERAN WOMENS MISSIONARY SOCIETY MITE BOXES** are available in the church



returned by Sunday, March 31st.

lobby. This is a handy way to gather change (coins or paper) for the next few weeks and dedicate them to mission work. Each Spring, LWMS chooses one home mission and one world mission to be the recipient of the offerings gathered in these boxes. They must be

### **EASTER EGG HUNT - EASTER SUNDAY**

We are starting to collect eggs for the children to hunt and find on Easter Sunday after worship. We are asking for plastic eggs, pre-filled with individually wrapped bandy. There will be a box in the church lobby in which to place these donated eggs. Can you help?



**NEW BEGINNINGS** is a parachurch organization of WELS Christians which offers pregnancy counseling and support for single women. A special opportunity to support this effort will begin after Easter. Plastic baby bottles will be available in the church lobby in which you can gather your gifts of coins or folding money. Watch for this to begin right after Easter.

Our photo studio will be set up in the church lobby each Sunday. Gary Aita will be on hand to take your individual or family photo. We're putting together a digital picture directory of our congregation that will run continuously on a large monitor at church.



**EASTER LILIES** have been purchased to fill our Easter Lily Cross for Easter. If you would like to purchase one, please submit cash or check payable to Ascension Lutheran Church in the amount of **\$8.50**. Please be sure to indicate in the envelope that it is for an Easter Lily.



## **Parables & Word Pictures**

### **Introduction**

Agree or disagree with the following statement (and give your reason why): “All

people are God’s children.”

Read Proverbs 22:2 – “Rich and poor have this in common: The Lord is the maker of them all.”

Read Acts 17:28 – “For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘Indeed, we are also his offspring.’”

From those two verses, what do you notice about the way God refers to people?

Throughout Scripture, God reserves the picture of “children” or “sons” only for those who know him through faith. He says we become sons of God “through faith in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:26). In this lesson, we’ll look at what God communicates with word pictures related to that truth.

### **Studying God’s Word**

The thought of being God’s children and part of his family was central to how the Jewish people thought of themselves in the days of Christ. But their understanding of *how they got that status* was flawed.

### **Inclusion in God’s family brings true freedom**

**Read John 8:31-35** - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you remain in my word, you are really my disciples. <sup>32</sup>You will also know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

<sup>33</sup>“We are Abraham’s descendants,” they answered, “and we have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say, ‘You will be set free?’”

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: Everyone who keeps committing sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup> But a slave does not remain in the family forever. A son does remain forever.

1. To what did the Jews of Jesus’ day attribute their place in God’s family and the freedom that came with it?
2. What slavery did Jesus say that they—and all people—were living in?
3. Compare Jesus’ words to the belief that people have a completely “free will.”
4. What does Jesus say is the only way to escape this slavery?

### **The true “circumcision”**

God told his Old Testament Israelites that they weren’t members of his covenant people unless they were circumcised (the surgical removal of a male’s foreskin). That physical practice—no longer commanded for God’s people today—was a picture and foreshadow of a spiritual truth.

**Read Colossians 2:11-14** – “You were also circumcised in him, with a circumcision not done by human hands, in the putting off of the body of flesh, in the circumcision of Christ, <sup>12</sup> when you were buried with Christ in baptism. And in baptism you were also raised with him through the faith worked by the God who raised Christ from the dead.

<sup>13</sup> Even when you were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ by forgiving us all our trespasses. <sup>14</sup> God erased the record of our debt brought against us by his legal demands. This record stood against us, but he took it away by nailing it to the cross.”

**Read Deuteronomy 10:16** – “So cut away the tough shell of your sinful nature, and do not be stubborn any longer.”

5. The true “circumcision,” in which we become part of God’s people, isn’t the removal of a foreskin. What is put off?
6. Who accomplishes this? How is it accomplished?

## **The joy of sonship**

**Read Galatians 3:26-29 and 4:4-7** - In fact, you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>27</sup> Indeed, as many of you as were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is not Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female, for you are all one and the same in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s descendants and heirs according to the promise. ... <sup>4</sup> But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so that he would be born under the law, <sup>5</sup> in order to redeem those under the law, so that we would be adopted as sons. <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts to shout, “*Abba, Father!*” <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but a son. And if you are a son, then you are also an heir of God through Christ.

7. What emotional truth is present when God refers to us as “sons” of God?
8. God doesn’t just call us his children, but his “sons.” What legal truth does that emphasize?
9. To what sort of things do people often look to find meaning or identity in life? How might these passages be a blessing when people struggle with what their identity in life really is?

## **Summary**

Key Points:

- All people are born slaves of sin, without a truly free will.
- Through the means of grace, God adopts us into his family.
- All believers have a new status as God’s dearly loved children, heirs of the blessings Christ Jesus won for us.

May God keep his people steadfast in these truths!

# The Triumphal Entry

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"  
 Luke 19:38 (NIV)

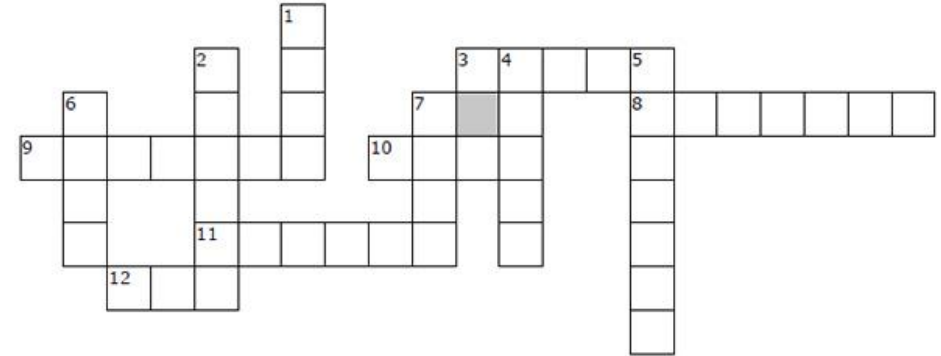


S P R E A D O D E A E E Q R X  
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 X U D Z C S C Y V A H N I E V  
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 N Y B M I R A C L E S T C K L

BLESSED	MIRACLES	HIGHEST	HEAVEN	CROWD
SPREAD	GLORY	PRAISE	VILLAGE	PEOPLE
DISCIPLES	CLOAKS	VOICES	LORD	PEACE
NAME	ROAD	JESUS	HILL	COLT

# The Triumphal Entry

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 Luke 19:38 (NIV)



## ACROSS

- The Son of God
- A word used for praise and adoration which means "save us"
- A small town
- A young animal of the horse family; especially one under one year
- To stretch out over a large area
- To secure with a piece of rope

## DOWN

- What a person is called
- To express admiration or approval of something or someone
- To go into a place
- Said something in a loud voice; called out; yelled
- A male ruler of a country
- A pathway for vehicles, persons, and animals; a street or highway

VILLAGE	JESUS	SHOUTED	ENTER
COLT	SPREAD	PRAISE	NAME
TIE	ROAD	HOSANNA	KING