

REview and PREview  
Thu 4/18/2019 3:22 PM

Good Thursday afternoon! I trust that you are having a good "Holy" Week thus far. I'm really looking forward to seeing you tonight at our Holy Thursday Soup Supper (6 PM - Social Hall) and Maundy Thursday Service (7 PM - Sanctuary).

And....please remember the special Tenebrae (Shadows) Service we have planned for Friday - 7 PM. We will feature readings, choir, solos, piano and a guest cellist! PLEASE COME and make the last preparation for Easter!

REview - I didn't share a sermon on Sunday, so I couldn't attach one. However, a couple of you have asked that I send out what I shared in the Welcome on Sunday. It's below.

PREview - What a joy it will be to celebrate Easter Sunday with you on Sunday. I hope you will make every effort to be in attendance AND if possible bring a friend, neighbor...or an enemy. What better time and place to engage in the work of reconciliation! The readings will be Psalm 118:14-24, Acts 10:34-43, and Luke 24:1-12. I hope you'll have a chance to read these before Sunday.

In the meantime, ponder this statement from author Dorothy Bass (speaking of Easter morning):  
"The first part of the day passes in darkness . . . but not in inactivity. God is out growing the crops even before the farmer is up.... God is busy knitting together the wound before the clinic opens." (from "Receiving the Day")

And....speaking of Easter, Swiss theologian Karl Barth suggested that the gospel is not a natural "therefore" but a miraculous "nevertheless." I like that!

Juli and I hope to see you on Sunday, God's bold and unnatural "nevertheless," the day we celebrate God's signature way of knitting together things so that the healing (the predictable "therefores") can continue.

### Welcome Palm/Passion Sunday – 2019

Welcome to one and all.....

Today is both arrival and bridge. We have arrived and have entered into ***Palm*** Sunday, which brings us to the ancient city Jerusalem. And today is also a bridge to Holy Week, so this is ***Passion*** Sunday, a day that links us to Easter. Easter is only Easter to the degree it is linked to the holiest of weeks.

The days now upon us are steeped with contrasts, tensions, and discordant tones that long for resolution. For 13 centuries, we have read sacred readings on this Sunday that seem to conflict and unnerve when placed together. The hymns recommended for today include "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" and "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord." Praise and thanksgiving ***alongside*** lament and grief.

So welcome to this day of contrasts and to this holy week of dissonance. We have followed Jesus all the way to this very hour. Let us follow him still. And it is ours to participate in today's dramatic reading. You will see in the handout places marked "**People**," and "All Men" and "All Women" I encourage you to participate fully.

Friends in Christ: Receive now Walter Wangerin Jr.'s "The Cry of the Whole Congregation."