

Sermon Series: “Teach Us to Pray” – Lord of Life Lutheran, Westfield, IN – EASTER SUNDAY, April 4, 2010
Title: “Yours Are the Kingdom, Power, and Glory”
Text: **Philippians 2:9-11**
Intro.: *Illus.: Jesus comes in a distant 4th*
Theme: Easter’s message brings us to a moment when we can do nothing but bring the praise to the One who lived and died and rose again for our salvation.

What caused the Father to take notice of His Son, Jesus, on Easter? (Philippians 2:5-8)

- Although God in his own right but out of love for the Father, Jesus submitted himself to **THE PLAN** (vs. 6)
 1. *So that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me. John 14:31*
 2. But because he also loved us with the Father’s love and so that we might see the Father’s glory in Jesus
 3. *“Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.” John 17:24*
- Willingly set aside the use of his glory and power, Jesus became “**enslaved to the limits of human existence**” (vs. 7)
 1. **God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21**
 2. **Illus.: Emptiness full of promises**
- Setting no boundary to his obedience, Jesus **allowed death’s indignity to happen** to his humanness (vs. 8)
 1. **Illus.: Watching my father die three years ago – there is no such thing as a peaceful death**
 2. Jesus along with this suffered a criminals death on an instrument of cruel and inhumane treatment
 3. Jesus suffered our eternal death in our place by taking on the fire and torment of hell we deserved

What actions does the Father take on behalf of His Son, Jesus, on Easter?

- **Lifts high His Name**
 1. *Because of this God raised him up to the heights of heaven and gave him a name that is above every name. Philippians 2:9*
 2. He has given us a **new song** to get practiced up now for when we join the choirs of heaven
 - a. *And they sang a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. Worthy is **the Lamb**, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!” Revelation 5:9, 12*
 3. A song of the living hope of the resurrection in a world filled with death – so sing it out in attitude, word, action
- **Commands every knee to bow** (vs. 10)
 1. For the short term it appears that not everyone is quite ready to bow the knee to Christ’s lordship
 - a. Some in arrogance still want to steal the glory and silence the Christ and His church
 - b. **Illus.: Lucky plumber’s son**
 - c. *Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen. Revelation 1:7*
 2. We are not dissuaded or silenced from giving honor to Jesus before our world (vs. 11)
 - a. *And I say to you, everyone who confesses Me before men, the Son of Man will confess him also before the angels of God. Luke 12:8*
- **Puts all things under the rule of his Lordship**
 1. *God has put everything under the control of Christ. He has made Christ the head of everything for the good of the church. The church is Christ’s body and completes him as he fills everything in every way. Ephesians 1:22-23*
 2. His power to break sin’s control over our lives
 - a. *Since we died with Christ, we know we will also share his new life. . .He died once to defeat sin, and now he lives for the glory of God. So you should consider yourselves dead to sin, and able to live for the glory of God through Christ Jesus. Romans 6:8-11*
 - b. We don’t have to run the white flag up to temptation and live in the regret of our past sins
 3. He transfers us from the kingdom of Satan’s tyranny to His kingdom of freedom
 - a. **For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. Colossians 1:13**
 - b. **Illus.: Praise drives away the enemy**
 4. He has silenced the sting of death forever – **FOR YOU**
 - a. *For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. How we thank God, who gives us victory over sin and death through Jesus Christ our Lord! 1 Corinthians 15:56-57*
 - b. So start living life rather than being in the process of dying! That will bring praise to Christ thru your life.

Jesus comes in a distant 4th

Some years ago, the distinguished publishing house of Grosset & Dunlap brought together a panel of 28 educators and historians and asked them to select the hundred most significant events of history, then list those events in order of importance. After months of labor, the panel reported that they considered the most significant event of history to be the discovery of America. In second place was the invention of movable type by Gutenberg. Eleven different events tied for third place, and five events tied for fourth place. The events tying for fourth were the writing of the Constitution of our country, the development of ether, the development of the x-ray, the discovery of the airplane, and the life of Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus tied for fourth. **Bruce Thielemann, "Christus Imperator," Preaching Today, Tape 55.**

Emptiness Full of Promises

A couple years ago, during a jubilant Easter service, our pastor said something that stopped me in my mental tracks: "The world offers promises full of emptiness. But Easter offers emptiness full of promise." Empty cross, empty tomb, empty grave-clothes ... all full of promise. If I were writing the Easter story, I don't think I'd choose emptiness as my symbolic gesture. But then, I also wouldn't be talking about strength being made perfect in weakness, foolish things confounding the wise, the meek inheriting the earth, or the poor in spirit getting in every sense of the word "get" the kingdom of heaven. And I certainly wouldn't be talking about dying in order to live. What is it about God that makes him so favor this kind of paradox? I guess this is what we should expect from the Servant King—the God who decided that the best way to save the world was to let it kill him. I don't understand the way God thinks. But on those days when I feel hollowed out and broken—half-dead, even—it makes me glad to remember that for Easter people, even death is full of promise. The world makes a lot of promises. Smoke and mirrors, mostly. Frantic, cartoonish attempts to distract us from the gaping holes in the middle of our souls (or to sell us the latest product in order to fill them). There's no life in those promises. So I'm hoping that ... I'll be a little more willing to die to that stuff. I'm praying I'll become more aware of the empty space within, and that I'll resist the urge to fill it with any old thing I can find. I'm going to wait, carved out, vulnerable, a cracked and crumbling jar of clay, on a life God's offered to deposit anywhere there's room. I'm going to believe that if I'll just leave my empty spaces empty, he'll fill them. That, I'm convinced, is a reasonable expectation. **Carolyn Arends, "What's So Good About Good Friday?" Kyria.com (4-10-09)**

Lucky Plumbers Son

Executive consultant Richard Hagberg told this story: The head of one large company recently told me about an incident that occurred as he and his wife waited in line to get his driver's license renewed. He was frustrated at how long it was taking and grumbled to his wife, "Don't they know who I am?" She replied, "Yeah, you're a plumber's son who got lucky." **Fortune (6/26/96). Fresh Illustrations for Preaching & Teaching (Baker), from the editors of Leadership.**

Praise Drives Away the Enemy

The citizens of Feldkirch, Austria, didn't know what to do. Napoleon's massive army was preparing to attack. Soldiers had been spotted on the heights above the little town, which was situated on the Austrian border. A council of citizens was hastily summoned to decide whether they should try to defend themselves or display the white flag of surrender. It happened to be Easter Sunday, and the people had gathered in the local church. The pastor rose and said, "Friends, we have been counting on our own strength, and apparently that has failed. As this is the day of our Lord's resurrection, let us just ring the bells, have our services as usual, and leave the matter in His hands. We know only our weakness, and not the power of God to defend us." The council accepted his plan and the church bells rang. The enemy, hearing the sudden peal, concluded that the Austrian army had arrived during the night to defend the town. Before the service ended, the enemy broke camp and left.

Philippians 2:5-8

⁵Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. ⁸Being found in appearance as a man, He ⁸humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Philipp 2:9-11

⁹For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. [NASB]