**“The Gate”**

Psalm 118:19-29

John 12:12-19

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 26:1—27:66

Palm Sunday / Sunday of the Passion

Hear from the words about this day from Psalm 118, verses 19-29: “Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we pray, O Lord! O Lord, we pray, give us success! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We bless you from the house of the Lord. The Lord is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us. Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar! You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you. Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!”

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Bridge**

We may sometimes wonder, “Where is the **Steadfast love of God**?” Where is that “**good action” of God for His people**? He **revealed** His Steadfast love in humble Israel … in the Child of the Virgin Mary. He **veiled His greatest gift** in what is least among people so that His gift might be **receivable by all**. Let’s pray for that: “Lord, when **we** cry ‘Hosanna! Save now!’ we know that we do not ever have to rise up to You, for **You have lowered Yourself to save us**. Thank You for that … and **let everyone receive the gift of You**. Amen.”

“**THIS** **…..** **THIS** is the day that the Lord has made; **let us all rejoice and be glad in it**.” No more appropriate day is this **reminded us** than at the “gate” that ushers the whole world into the **holiest of weeks of God’s “making”**: the **Palm Sunday entrance through Jerusalem’s gate of the provided Sacrifice Whose bloodshed was sufficient to cover all sins**.

**Text**

“**Save us the way You need to, we pray, O Lord**”, which is exactly **what God was making happen for our remembrance THIS DAY**. The “gates of righteousness” became **openable to humanity** as the gate of Jerusalem opened for **Jesus’** “Triumphal entry” to His self-sacrifice. “Hosanna. Blessed is **He** Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!” “The **Stone** the builders rejected has (that week) **become** the Cornerstone. And **THIS is** the Lord’s doing; **it is** (and **can be**, and **always should be**) marvelous in our eyes.”

It's a tradition passed down that the stones rejected from the building of the temple were cast upon the rock mound called Golgotha (a place strategic, but where crosses couldn’t be embedded into the ground, so were held up that high above the city gates by a base of rejected temple stones propping-it-up there). Those rejected stones, then, probablyheld our Lord Jesus “high and lifted up” on wood by nails until death on Friday.

God made those propped rejected stones holders of the **Cornerstone of the Temple that (in bloodshed) became worthy (beyond even His worthiness before) of His presence (God’s entire fullness bodily then)**. And it’s **that One, veiled in the flesh He’d assumed (the Divine Son)** who **entered a gate** to become **our Gate**, that **through Him** one could also (in Him) walk **pleasingly** in God’s presence. “**Open** **to me** **(key words)** the gates of righteousness, that **I** may enter through them and (with words and, more importantly lives) **give thanks to the Lord**. **This” (His and for His purpose entering the city of Jerusalem on Palm Sunday) “is the Gate of the Lord**; and all who’d become themselves (with Him) righteous shall **enter through it**. **I** thank You, Lord (it continues), that You have **answered me** and **have become my salvation**.” This “gate” is **for all**, but **personal**.

**Application**

I remember being there on that entry point (the city, Jerusalem’s gate where He rode in). Ed and Pat McIntyre and I ran up the road that Jesus rode in on, running because we spent too much time talking in Gethsemene’s garden. We entered the gate where Jesus entered that “**DAY THAT THE LORD MADE**”, Him coming to be Sacrifice (**coming for that**). I remember the gate and road **not wide** (no wider than a pew, I’d say). Its path had a higher wall on one side and a lower one (maybe knee level) on the other. And if people gathered (some) it would **take very few to make that entrance full and packed-in (the gate itself wasn’t wide)** …

… and I think that’s **how** we ought to **remember it these days**. The “day that the Lord has made” is a call certainly to the masses of the world and yet it’s with the **deliberateness of those who walk progressing through the week of Christ’s Passion that salvation and the joy (the “rejoicing” that this day calls for) is found**.

There are no broad paths. The road **around the way of that day** and other passages anywhere are many and wide, but this “gate” is singular and particular, and **entirely different than some generality**. There’s a whole world (even **at that time**) that didn’t **hear** about how **monumental** the week’s events beginning on Palm Sunday were and there is most of this world **now** (I know) that **won’t particularly care**. And even people calling themselves Christians **pass too quickly not through this “gate”, but around it (and without much notice) of the “days the Lord had made” from this one till Easter Sunday**.

But the **“Gate’s” here (recounted in the Palm Sunday, beginning of Holy Week text)**, upon a colt of a donkey, Him progressing to the **SAVING ACT** riding slowly to get (where He was destined and committed to get and become) **“lifted up high” to (from there and that) “draw men to Himself”**. **THERE** (and **IN THAT**) one must **go** and **be** … and **remember**, and **always be highly cognizant of**.

“Where is the **Steadfast love of God**?” Where is that “**good action” of God for His people**? He **revealed** His Steadfast love in humble Israel (most particularly beginning on the day of that Palm Sunday) … in the Child of the Virgin Mary. He **veiled His greatest gift** in what is least among people (and killed as one “most despised”) so that His gift might be **receivable by all**.

In Jesus’ name. Amen.