

# THE LORD’S DAY WORSHIP

ELEVEN O’CLOCK

April 14, 2019

*Palm Sunday*

We gather today as “the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant ...” Hebrews 12:23-24a

## A Time for Preparation

### *Silent Prayer of Preparation for Worship*

MY GOD,

You have helped me to see, that whatever good be in honor and rejoicing, how good is he who gives them, and can withdraw them; that blessedness does not lie so much in receiving good from and in you, but in holding forth your glory and virtue; that it is an amazing thing to see Deity in a creature, speaking, acting, filling, shining through it; that nothing is good but you, that I am near good when I am near you, that to be like you is a glorious thing: This is my magnet, my attraction. You are all my good in times of peace, my only support in days of trouble, my one sufficiency when life shall end. Help me to see how good your will is in all, and even when it crosses mine teach me to be pleased with it. Grant me to feel you in fire, and food and every providence, and to see that your many gifts and creatures are but your hands and fingers taking hold of me. Your bottomless fountain of all good, I give myself to you out of love, for all I have or own is yours, my goods, family, church, self, to do with as you will, to honor yourself by me, and by all mine. If it be consistent with your eternal counsels, the purpose of your grace, and the great ends of your glory, then bestow upon me the blessings of your comforts. If not, let me resign myself to your wiser determinations. -- (Valley of Vision Prayer Book)

**Ringling of Bell** ..... Judah & Felicity Gosnell

**Announcements**..... Deacon

## A Time for Praise:

### *Prelude*

### *Call to Worship*

Scripture and Prayer ..... Worship Leader

• *Hymn of Praise* ..... *In the Name of the Lord* ..... Hymn #299

• ..... *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* ..... Hymn #297

## A Time for Offering:

• *Offertory Hymn* ..... *We Will Glorify* ..... Hymn #105

Offertory Prayer

Tithes and Offerings ..... Ushers

## A Time for Hearing God’s Word:

*Choral Message* ..... *Comes the King* ..... Arr. Christopher

Message ..... Pastor Lucas Mann

Pastoral Prayer

## A Time for Communion:

• *Hymn of Preparation* ..... *Hallelujah, What a Savior!* ..... Hymn #311

Prayer of Confession

### *Partaking the Lord’s Supper*

## A Time for Surrender:

• *Closing Hymn* ..... *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* ..... Hymn #426

• Benediction

### *Postlude*

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!” (2 Corinthians 13:14)

### *Affirmation of Faith – the Baptist Catechism, 1813*

#### **81. Which is the ninth commandment?**

A. The ninth commandment is, “Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor” (Ex. 20:16).

#### **82. What is required in the ninth commandment?**

A. The ninth commandment requires the maintaining and promoting of truth between man and man (Zech. 8:16), and of our own neighbor's good name (Jn. 5:12), especially in bearing witness (Pr. 14:5, 25).

#### **83. What is forbidden in the ninth commandment?**

A. The ninth commandment forbids whatsoever is prejudicial to the truth, or injurious to our own or our neighbor's good name (1 Sam. 17:28; Lev. 19:16; Ps. 15:2, 3).

## Opportunities of the Week

### **Sunday, April 14**

11:00 a.m. LORD’s Supper

12:00 p.m. VBS Meeting

6:00 p.m. Choir Practice

7:00 p.m. Evening Worship

7:00 p.m. Youth Ministry

7:00 p.m. Children’s Ministry

8:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting

### **Wednesday, April 17**

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

### **Friday, April 19**

GOOD FRIDAY

**Church Watch this month:** Mike Posey, Jr.

# The Savior’s Tears of Sovereign Mercy

by John Piper

*“Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!”*

(Mark 11:9–10)

Palm Sunday is the day in the church year when traditionally we mark the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem for the last week of his life.

As he rode into town on the humble beast, Jesus was not oblivious to what was about to happen to him. His enemies were going to get the upper hand, and he would be rejected and crucified. And within a generation the city would be obliterated. Here’s how Jesus says it in Luke 19:43–44:

*The days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.*

God was visiting them in Jesus, his Son — “*he came to his own, and his own received him not*” (John 1:11). But they did not know the time of their visitation. So they stumbled over the stumbling stone. The builders rejected the stone and threw it away. Jesus saw this coming.

## The King Cries

How did he respond? “*When he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, ‘Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes’*” (Luke 19:41–42). Jesus wept over the blindness and the impending misery of Jerusalem.

How would you describe these tears? I would call them tears of sovereign mercy. The effect they should have on us is to make us admire Christ and treasure him above all others and worship him as our merciful Sovereign. And when we have seen the beauty of his mercy, we become merciful with him and like him and for his glory.

So, let’s admire Christ together on this Palm Sunday.

## Admiring His Tender Sovereignty

What makes Christ so admirable and so different than all other persons is that he unites in himself so many qualities that in other people are contrary to each other. We can imagine supreme sovereignty, and we can imagine tenderhearted mercy. But to whom do we look to combine, in perfect proportion, merciful sovereignty and sovereign mercy? We look to Jesus. No other religious or political contender even comes close.

Look at three pointers to his sovereignty in the Palm Sunday account.

First, the crowds praised God for Jesus’s mighty works (Luke 19:37). He had healed leprosy with a touch; he had made the blind see and the deaf hear and the lame walk; he had commanded the unclean spirits and they obeyed him; he had stilled storms and walked on water and turned five loaves and two fish into a meal for thousands. So as he entered Jerusalem, they knew

nothing could stop him. He could just speak, and Pilate would perish; the Romans would be scattered. He was sovereign.

Then look, secondly, at verse 38. The crowds cried out, *“Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!”* Jesus was a King, and not just any king, but the one sent and appointed by the Lord God. They knew how Isaiah had described him — as sovereign over an invincible, never-ending kingdom:

Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. (Isaiah 9:7)

A universal, never-ending kingdom backed by the zeal of almighty God. Here was the King of the universe, who today rules over the nations and the galaxies, and for whom America and ISIS and every other political state are only a grain of sand and a vapor.

Third, verse 40. When the Pharisees tell him to make the people stop blessing him as a king, he answers, *“I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out”* (Luke 19:40). Why? Because Jesus will be praised! The whole design of the universe is that Christ be praised. And therefore, if people won’t do it, he will see to it that rocks do it.

In other words, he is sovereign. He will get what he means to get. If we refuse to praise, the rocks will get the joy.

### **Fulfillment, Not Failure**

It is remarkable, therefore, that the tears of Jesus in verse 41 are so often used to deny his sovereignty. Someone will say, “Look, he weeps over Jerusalem because his design for them is not coming to pass. He would delight in their salvation. But they are resistant. They are going to reject him. They are going to hand him over to be crucified. And so his purpose for them has failed.” But there is something not quite right about this objection to Jesus’s sovereignty.

He can make praise come from rocks. And so he could do the same from rock-hard hearts in Jerusalem. What’s more, all this rejection and persecution and killing of Jesus are not the failure of Jesus’s plan, but the fulfillment of it.

Listen to what he said in Luke 18:31–33 a short time before:

*And taking the twelve, he said to them, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written [planned!] about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. And after flogging him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise.”*

The betrayal, the mockery, the shame, the spit, the flogging, the murder — and so much more — was planned. In other words, the resistance, the rejection, the unbelief and hostility were not a surprise to Jesus. They were, in fact, part of the plan. He says so.

This is probably why it says at the end of verse 42, *“But now they are hidden from your eyes.”* Remember what Jesus said about his parables in Luke 8:10: *“To you [disciples] it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that ‘seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.’”* God was handing them over to hardness. It was judgment.

### **Merciful and Mighty**

The mercy of God is a sovereign mercy. *“I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion”* (Romans 9:15). But here is the point we see on Palm Sunday: This sovereign Christ weeps over the hard-hearted, perishing people of Jerusalem as they fulfilled his plan. It is unbiblical and wrong to make the tears of mercy a contradiction to the serenity of sovereignty. Jesus was serene in sorrow, and sorrowful in sovereignty. Jesus’s tears are the tears of sovereign mercy.

And therefore, his sovereign power is the more admirable and the more beautiful. It’s the harmony of things that seem in tension that makes him glorious — “merciful and mighty,” as we sing. We admire power more when it is merciful power. And we admire mercy more when it is mighty mercy.

O, that we would see and savor the beauty of Christ — the Palm Sunday tears of sovereign joy and the self-sacrificing love and obedience that took him every step of the way during Holy Week. And O, that as we admire and worship him this week, we would be changed by what we see and become more tenderly-moved, self-denying, need-meeting people.

**We thank you for worshipping with us today. We trust that your heart has been encouraged, your spirit filled, and that you will leave here equipped for the work to which God has called you. If you would like to find out more information about Poplar Springs Baptist Church, please visit our website: [www.poplarspringsws.org](http://www.poplarspringsws.org) or call (864) 861-2196.**

### **Church Contact Information:**

**Church/Fellowship Building:** (864) 861-2190

**Office/Parsonage:** (864) 861-2196

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 124, Ware Shoals, SC 29692

**Church Office:** 6466 Poplar Springs Road, Ware Shoals, SC 29692

**Hours:** Wednesday and Thursday, 8-4

**Email:** [balentine@poplarspringsws.org](mailto:balentine@poplarspringsws.org)

**Interim Pastor:** Lucas Mann  
(864) 909-7564

**Youth Pastor:** Travis Gosnell

**Music Leader:** Deck Balentine

**Pianist:** Jean Powell

**Website:** [www.poplarspringsws.org](http://www.poplarspringsws.org)

# **Poplar Springs Baptist Church**



*“A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David!’ ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ‘Hosanna in the highest heaven!’ When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, ‘Who is this?’ The crowds answered, ‘This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.’”*  
**Matthew 21:8–11**

**THE LORD’S DAY, APRIL 14, 2019  
PALM SUNDAY**

**6000 Poplar Springs Road  
Ware Shoals, SC 29692  
(864) 861-2196  
[www.poplarspringsws.org](http://www.poplarspringsws.org)**

**Interim Pastor Lucas Mann**

**Sunday School: 10:00 am**

**Worship: 11:00 am**