



# **SUNDAY OF THE PASSION PALM SUNDAY APRIL 13, 2025**

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH, BROOKLYN**

*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

THE WELCOME PLACE ... THE CHURCH THAT CARES

WORSHIPING AND SERVING IN THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1916

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Rev. Ellen Lichtfuss, *Pastor*

Drew Taliaferro, *Director of Music*

Michael McFarland, *Deacon*

The Rev. Joseph P. Lettrich, *Pastor Emeri*

## **PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY**

MINISTERS: The People of St. John

PRESIDING MINISTER: Rev. Ellen Lichtfuss

ASSISTING MINISTER: Leslie Schell

LECTOR: Leslie Schell

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: David Horst Jr.4e

CRUCIFER/ACOLYTE: Dennis Schell

USHERS: Hal Baesch, Stan Sieradzki, and Bill Council

ORGANIST: Drew Taliaferro

ALTAR GUILD: Leslie Schell and Claudia Hickman

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Welcome** to any visitors today. Please sign the guest book in the Narthex.

**Children's Table** has Bible storybooks, crayons, and coloring books are available in the back of the church for young children to use during the service.

**Flyers** for both the **Bag Bingo** and **Afternoon Tea Bus Trip** are available on the Welcome Table and Confirmation Hall Table.

**Bread, wine, and candles** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of the 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday anniversary of Gilbert L. Heiderman, father, by Leslie Heiderman Schell.

**Volunteers are needed on Saturday, April 19, to decorate the church for Easter. We will start at 9:00 a.m.**

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## INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Today we follow Christ from triumphal entry to the cross, each waypoint of the journey marked by Jesus' compassion for those who would betray, mock, accuse, or do violence to him. Though persecuted and beaten, Jesus the Son of God is not disgraced; instead, he asks forgiveness for those who put him to death. We have walked the Lenten pathway these forty days, each of us invited through baptism to "let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." We enter this holy week accompanying Jesus to the cross with both grief and thanksgiving in our hearts, trusting in God's redeeming love.

## GATHERING

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Let us now listen to our church bells and prelude to help us enter the spirit of prayer, thanksgiving, and praise. "Worship the LORD in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth. Say among the nations, 'The LORD is king!'" (Psalm 96:9-10)

### RINGING OF CHURCH BELLS

### PRELUDE

Handbells "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" arr. Childers

*Please stand, as you are able, and face the pastor  
in the back of the church.*

### ACCLAMATION

P Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

C Hosanna in the highest.

## **PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Luke 19: 28-40**

A The holy gospel according to Luke.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>28</sup> After he had said this, [Jesus] went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

<sup>29</sup> When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, <sup>30</sup> saying, “Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it.’” <sup>32</sup> So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. <sup>33</sup> As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” <sup>34</sup> They said, “The Lord needs it.” <sup>35</sup> Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup> As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. <sup>37</sup> As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, <sup>38</sup> saying,

“Blessed is the king  
who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Peace in heaven,  
and glory in the highest heaven!”

<sup>39</sup> Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” <sup>40</sup> He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

A The gospel of the Lord.

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

## **BLESSING OF PALMS**

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept.*

P We praise you, O God,  
for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ.  
Today he entered the holy city in triumph  
and was proclaimed messiah and king  
by those who spread garments and branches along his way.  
Bless these branches and those who carry them.  
Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross,  
so that, joined to his death and resurrection,  
we enter into life with you;  
through the same Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

#### **PROCESSION**

P Let us go forth in peace,

**C in the name of Christ. Amen.**

*The people may raise their palm branches for the blessings. If you desire, you may make the sign of the cross.*

#### **GATHERING SONG 264 ELW**

“Prepare the Royal Highway” *All verses*

#### **GREETING**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

P Let us pray together.

**C O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us**

around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

*Please be seated.*

## WORD

### **First Reading Isaiah 50: 4-9a**

A A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>4</sup>The Lord GOD has given me  
the tongue of a teacher,  
that I may know how to sustain  
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—  
wakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.

<sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backward.

<sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who struck me,  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;  
I did not hide my face  
from insult and spitting.

<sup>7</sup>The Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

<sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near.  
Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.

<sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord GOD who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 31:9-16

*Spoken responsively*

<sup>9</sup> Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble;  
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

<sup>10</sup> **For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;  
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**

<sup>11</sup> I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances;  
**when they see me in the street they avoid me.**

<sup>12</sup> **Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;  
I am as useless as a broken pot.**

<sup>13</sup> For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;  
they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

<sup>14</sup> **But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD.  
I have said, "You are my God.**

<sup>15</sup> My times are in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

<sup>16</sup> **Let your face shine upon your servant;  
save me in your steadfast love."**

## Anthem

"Hosanna, Hosanna!"

Drennen

*Please stand, as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



☞ Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,  
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

*You may be seated for the reading of the Passion.*

## **Gospel: Luke 22:1– 23:56**

*Through the teachings and events of the passion story we see and hear the great contradictions that characterize the coming of God's reign. The leader serves the followers, proud Peter is revealed in his cowardice, and Jesus—the innocent bringer of life—is arrested, beaten, executed, and buried.*

### READERS

Jesus – David Horst Jr.	Peter – Ben Johnson
Pilate – Robert Lichtfuss	Narrator – Shirley Quaskey
First Criminal – Tom Young	Second Criminal – Dennis Schell
Witness – Morgan Johnson	Servant – Brenda Jacobs
Centurion – Bill Council	People - Congregation

## **CHILDREN'S TIME**

Pastor Ellen Lichtfuss

*Silence for reflection.*

*Please stand, as you are able.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY 343 ELW**

“My Song is Love Unknown (sung to #640 Rhosymedre)

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**P** With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**C** **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third  
day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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



## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

A Guide your church this Holy Week as we follow in the servant way of Jesus. Protect those who face hostility or oppression for their faith. Humble those who would use faith to dominate others and reinforce their own power. Inspire and guide our bishops, Elizabeth and William, our pastor Ellen, our deacon Michael, and our pastor emeritus Joseph. God, in your mercy,

**Receive our prayer.**

A Make your creation a living witness to Christ's passion and resurrection: in waving palms, shouting stones, fragrant vineyards, murmuring wheat, and revealing fire. Make us attentive to your holy presence in the world, that we may care for the earth you love. Especially, help us to care for our community, Maryland farmlands, Eastern Shore, Chesapeake Bay, Baltimore harbor, and Masonville Cove. God in your mercy,

**Receive our prayer.**

A Let your face shine upon the leaders of nations and let the same mind be in them as was in Christ Jesus, so that those with the most power may humble themselves to serve the most vulnerable. God in your mercy,

**Receive our prayer.**

A Sustain the weary with a word. Grant perseverance to political prisoners and to any who are exploited, unjustly accused, or wrongly convicted. Abide with all who are in jails, detention centers, or prisons. Console all who experience times of trial or suffering. Bring healing to those in need, especially those on our prayer list, those we especially pray for today, and those we name in our hearts. May all who weep now sing songs of joy again. God, in your mercy,

**Receive our prayer.**

A Give strength to those who will lead worship during Holy Week: pastors and deacons, altar guilds and sacristans, musicians and assisting ministers, ushers, and office staff. Instill in them awe and joy, that their service may reflect the love of Jesus. God in your mercy,

**Receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A We give thanks to you for our beloved dead, trusting that as the cross of Jesus led to the empty tomb, so you welcome those who have died into the paradise of your presence. God in your mercy,

**Receive our prayer.**

P Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

**Amen**

**EXCHANGE OF PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

*The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Peace be with you.

**Peace be with you.**

*Please be seated.*

**MEAL**

**ANTHEM**

“Hosanna to the Son of David”

Williams/Barrett

*Please stand.*

*The offering plate is brought forward.*

**OFFERING SONG 188 ELW**

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

## OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray together.

C Gracious Provider,

you set your immense treasures among us,  
opening your heart to the world.

As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,  
deepen our commitment to sharing those  
treasures with others,  
through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

### DIALOG

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes, with a 'C' symbol indicating the start of a new phrase. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give him thanks and praise.'

C The Lord be with you. C And al - so with you.

C Lift up your hearts. C We lift them to the Lord.

C Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

### PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
 Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

We give you thanks, O Lord our God,

for the wonders of your love and mercy.

We praise you for the goodness you showed to your people Israel,

leading them, after your passover,

from their bondage in Egypt to the land of promise.

We praise you for your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,

who gave us the New Passover in his holy supper.

As he took his place at the table with his disciples,

we remember how, as he washed their feet,

he gave them the new commandment

to love and serve one another.

Though betrayed and forsaken,

he overcame hatred with his forgiving love,

enduring the suffering and shame of the cross

reconciling us to you.

P In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

'Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

'This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people  
for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink of this cup,

**C we proclaim our Lord's death until he comes.**

P Loving Father, we celebrate this eucharist,  
recalling our Lord's agony in the garden,  
his holy passion and his life-giving resurrection.

We await his coming as Lord of the new creation,  
when all people shall serve one another  
with love and rejoicing in his kingdom.

**C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus,**

P Send your Holy Spirit among us,  
and upon this Bread of Life and this Cup of Blessing,  
that through our Lord's life-giving body ✝ and blood ✝  
we may ever rejoice in the forgiveness of sins  
and be sanctified by the truth of his cross.

**C Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

P Gather the Church from every time and every place  
into the everlasting peace and freedom won by Christ,  
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

**C Through him, with him, in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us

**C 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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P All who are hungry, come!

God's feast of grace is spread, and all are welcomed at God's table.

*Please be seated,*

## COMMUNION

***All the faithful are welcome at the Lord's Table.***

Please come forward by the center aisle and return by a side aisle.

*If walking to communion is a problem, please stand in place; the bread and wine will be brought to you. Please sign a communion card and hand it to an usher. Adults and children who are not communing today are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing from the pastor. Individual pre-poured cups of dealcoholized wine are available in the trays for those who do not wish to drink alcohol.*

## COMMUNION SONG

**♩** Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Hymn #338 "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

## TABLE BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

## SONG AFTER COMMUNION 811 ELW

"On My Heart Imprint Your Image"

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray together.

C Generous Host,

you have shared your feast with us and made us new.

Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,  
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,  
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## SENDING

*Please stand.*

### BLESSING

P The God of love, god our tender parent,

God the crucified one,

God the reconciling Spirit,

✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

### SENDING SONG HYMN 347 ELW

“Go to Dark Gethsemane” *All verses*

### DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C Thanks be to God.

### POSTLUDE

**EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Pastor Ellen Lichtfuss**

**443-534-4498**



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## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN

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### **SUNDAY OF THE PASSION/PALM SUNDAY, April 13**

9:00 a.m. – Holy Communion

10:00 a.m. – Sunday School, Coffee Hour, Handbell Rehearsal

### **MONDAY, April 14**

12 Noon – Alcoholics Anonymous

### **TUESDAY, April 15**

7:30 p.m. – Alcoholics Anonymous

### **WEDNESDAY, April 16**

12 Noon – AA Anonymous

4:00 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal

### **THURSDAY, April 17**

10:00 a.m. - Community Meal, Pantry, and Clothing Closet

### **SATURDAY, April 19**

**9:00 a.m – Decorate the church**

9:30 a.m. – Alcoholics Anonymous

7:30 p.m. – Alcoholics Anonymous

### **RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD/EASTER– April 20**

9:00 a.m. – Holy Communion

10:00 a.m. –Sunday School, Coffee Hour, Handbell Rehearsal



## *Palm Sunday*

**THE PALMS** and the palm baskets are given to the glory of God by:

- ✦ Kathy Harris, in memory of husband, Gordon Harris
- ✦ Randy and Lisa Hart, in memory of Our Loved Ones
- ✦ Claudia Hickman, in memory of all My Loved Ones
- ✦ Monette Obzut, in memory of My Loved Ones
- ✦ Leslie and Dennis Schell, in memory of Our Loved Ones
- ✦ Pat and Tom Young, in memory of Our Loved One

**FIGURES FOR APRIL 6  
ATTENDANCE –61  
OFFERING:**

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
General Fund	\$2,351.63
Loose Plate	10.00
Building Maintenance	880.00
Ash Wednesday	5.00
Maundy Thursday	85.00
Good Friday	125.00
Easter	175.00
Bingo	358.00
Utilities	25.00
Community Meal	200.00
Mar-Lu-Ridge Special Appeal	75.00
Global Barnyard	65.00
Easter Lillies	183.00
Palms	100.00
Tea Bus Trip	220.00
Coffee Hour	20.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$4,877.63</b>

**HOSPITALIZED/PRAYER LIST**

Please surround those named below, and all who hold them dear, with your prayers for God’s healing and wholeness. **You are kindly asked to phone or email the church office to request prayers, report any errors or omissions, and provide updates.**

**St. John, Brooklyn:**

**Members:**

**Steven Isaac and Ty and Sandy Isaac. Emily Eiermann, Jim Horst, Sue and Richard Calvert, Diana Beecher, Stephanie Haigis, Catherine Bacot, Patricia Kirby, Laurie Anderson, Lillie Rhoades, Randy Hart, Peggie Albiker, undergoing physical therapy, Don and Angie Smith, Aimee Robinson. Marie Pledger, Pat Dearing, Susan Brown, Bill Councill, Shirley Quaskey, Ginny Yost, Carol**

**Fehrmann, and Holly Kinstler** request prayers. Continue praying for **F. Marie Jacobs, Catherine Brecht, Rose Macknovitz, Mark Macknovitz, and Patricia Isaac.**

**Family and Friends:**

The church asks for prayers for **Heather Washburn**, mother of the newly baptized Faithlyn Washburn, experiencing health issues. Kathy Riley requests prayers for **Tim Mauritzen**, struggling with kidney disease; for **Richard Paugh** and **Ron Billingsley**, who is undergoing cancer treatment. She also adds **Micheal McCrory** who is seriously ill.

Dennis Schell requests prayers for **Paul Fitzgerald**, his college friend, and for Paul's wife, **Sue Fitzgerald**. Richard Anderson asks for prayers for his sister-in-law, **Linda Anderson**, and nephew, **Michael Shrodes**. Claudia Hickman asks you to pray for her granddaughter and her husband, **Jessica and Russell Trosterud** and her friend, **Mary Peters**. Kathy Harris requests your prayers for **Wayne Watson and Darlene Murphy**.

Grace Planalp requests prayers for **Pastor Mike Dubsy** and for **Stephen Rowoldt**, her brother. Please pray for **Katie McNey**, the twin sister of Holly Kinstler's daughter-in-law. Holly also requests prayers for her cousins, **Kim Meyer** and **Barry Martin**, sister-in-law, **Beth Fisher**.

Pastor Bob Schmitt requests prayers for his wife, **Deborah Schmitt**, and for his brother-in-law, **Kevin Hackett**. Please pray for **Andrea**, neighbor of Floyd Musk. Marie Pledger asks for prayers for her friend, **David John Leimbach**.

Remember in prayer **Thomas (Tommy) Kelch**, husband of Karen Rainey Kelch. Holly Hatfield requests prayers for **Kathy and Nick Spurlock**, her aunt and uncle. Please pray for Monette Obzut's cousins, **Suzanne Carroll, Sharon Dillon, Leo Zerhuse, and George and Becky Young**. Forrest Wood requests prayers for **Rev. Marshall Scott**.

**St. Paul's, Curtis Bay:**

Prayers are requested for **Henrietta Bond, Terri Otes, Jeanette Johnson, David Deibel, Tony Amrhein, Annie Lutz, June Coughlin, Amy Stroh Purdy, Mary Strachan, George and Wendy Kester, and George Lang.**

## GOSPEL MESSAGE

### SUNDAY OF THE PASSION / PALM SUNDAY

#### *Remember Us*

On this Sunday of the Passion, the gathered church remembers the final days of Jesus' life. Once the celebratory palm branches are set down, the mood shifts as the somber tones of betrayal and crucifixion take over. The Lukan narrative draws us into the details, and we remember the extent of God's passion for us as Jesus enters into the depths of suffering through divine selfless love poured out for the sake of the world.



There is power in remembering. To be sure, this is an exercise of memory and recall for us. Yet Holy Week is much more than that. In our remembering of Jesus' passion, our reality is re-membered with God's reality. Like members of a body, we are re-membered onto Christ, formed into one through the Spirit, and drawn into the reality of God's saving love. Through scripture, song, and prayer, the liturgy of this day re-members us as God's people as we bear witness to Jesus' remembrance of us.

In the culminating moment of the crucifixion, only Luke's gospel reports the exchange between the two criminals and Jesus. The one criminal chastises the other before he addresses the crucified Jesus, saying, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom" (Luke 23:42). The request is for more than an act of recall; the criminal is seeking to be re-membered in the dominion of God, seeking a fusion of realities—his with Jesus'. Without hesitation, Jesus responds, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise" (v. 43). The criminal will be *with* Jesus, re-membered to Jesus.

This Sunday we remember Jesus' passion as together we are joined to God's loving action for the world. Jesus' last breath on the cross is the moment when our reality is re-membered with God's, for Jesus remembers us, and paradise's reign is realized.

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

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