



DEVOTIONS FOR LIFE

Aldersgate Church ~ St. Louis Park, MN

Week of April 10, 2022 (John 19:16b-30 & 12:12-19)

Prayer for Groups & Personal Devotion:

Lord God, the children of Israel sang praises and welcomed Jesus. They spread before him palms and cloaks and rejoiced at his coming. With similar emotion, we come before him this day: we come with a deep sense of thanksgiving for life is good. All that is made available to us, we seek not to take for granted but to recognise all of it as your gift to us.

While we offer thanks we recognise that too many in our world have less access to the good things of life than we do. Today we call upon your Spirit to lead us towards deeds of goodness and justice: that the poor may be lifted by our work, that the sick and needy may be healed by the comfort and support we offer, that the grieving are led to see the opportunities that are still awaiting as we offer them support ...

Devotions for Life A LifeGroup & Personal Resource

The Story: John 19:16b-30 (also 12:12-19)

Context: And onward we go, to the cross. But before we go there, we take a peek back to chapter 12, which is the Palm Sunday scene that we skipped over.

Remember, in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, the incident that triggers the religious leaders to finally arrest Jesus is him turning over the tables in the temple immediately after the Palm Sunday scene. Not so in John. In John it is the resurrection of Lazarus before the Palm Sunday scene. The Palm Sunday scenes are all about Jesus' kingship, but the question is what kind of king? In John it is one who does not wield the power and fear of death over people, but gives life.



And that is what is important to remember as we leap back to John 19, picking up right where we left off last

...and gentle encouragement, that the voiceless are given a voice by our readiness to advocate for them, that those who are oppressed are set free by our campaigning for a fairer world.

Hear us as we stay silent a while, bringing to mind our family and friends...

Silence

Those we name before you are precious to us and our concern for them is large. Yet your concern for all your children is even vaster. We thank you for that unconditional love. We are loved. All are loved. Amen

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Acts of Compassion & Justice:

Contribute to Every Meal:

This month we're raising funds for the organization, Every Meal. Learn more about them at www.everymeal.org and if you can, contribute their efforts in ending child hunger.



week, with John 19:16b.

Reading the Story:

As you read this story, look for any and all of the themes that we've seen through the Gospel, as well as any parallels to other stories. For, after all, it is at the end of this passage that Jesus says, "It is finished" and then gives up his Spirit. What is finished?

Questions for Discussion & Reflection:

- What words, images, or moments stand out to you in this passage?
- Who is "the disciple whom Jesus loved"?
- What is significant about Mary being there? Where else has Mary shown up in this Gospel?
- In what three languages did Pilate have on the sign on Jesus' cross? Why do you think John shares this detail?
- What is going on between Mary and the "Disciple that Jesus Loved"?
- Where else have we seen wine show up in this Gospel? How might those stories connect, compare, or contrast to this one?
- What three things does Jesus say on the cross? Why might they be significant? What themes, if any, do you see in them?
- What is the "it" to which Jesus is referring when he says "it is finished"?
- What does the cross mean to you?

Holy Week Schedule:

(All services in-person & online)

Palm Sunday: April 10 ~ 10:00am

Good Friday: April 15 ~ 7:00pm

Easter Sunday: April 17 ~ 10:00am

