



The Messenger

International Lutheran Church

www.ilcseoul.org | April 13, 2025 | Issue #953

A NOTE FROM PASTOR CARL

FOR OUR SAKE... HE WAS CRUCIFIED

Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last. (Luke 23:46 ESV) Lent ends with the bold declaration of why our Lord was crucified *For Our Sake*. Today at International Lutheran Church, we literally go from the triumphant shouts of children in the streets waving palm branches as Jesus enters the Holy City (Jerusalem) to the callous jeers of all humanity as He hangs on a tree outside the city walls. Today is the Sunday of the Passion and the beginning of Holy Week. Our theme turns to the cross and what it means that He was crucified *For Our Sake*.

Three years ago, I was blessed to be able to spend many precious moments with my dad. At the time we weren't sure exactly how things were going to turn out but for him he felt like this was "his time." Because of this, each conversation was precious. Each memory that raced across the decades was priceless. Each word of blessing and reassurance was comfort and salve to the soul. I knew at the time that this was not a typical experience afforded to everyone and so it made this even more of a treasure. I can understand why, then, each of the Gospel writers would record for us in detail Jesus' words and actions during His brutal crucifixion and agonizing death. These words are truly precious pearls for us to contemplate His heart, His intention, and His will and testament.

For Luke there are three key statements that Jesus makes as He is hung naked for the world to scorn. Each one unpacks for us Luke's own understanding of the cross of Jesus and what it means for us. The first is, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34) The cross of Jesus is the embodiment of our Father's action to forgive the sins of all, even when those blows are intentional and, strictly speaking, meant to inflict pain and agony. Jesus' forgiveness is not a blanket excuse of our ignorance but a willful absolution of the insanity of our actions whether verbal, physical, or emotional. What seems to be man killing man, is in this act, God forgiving me and you. *For Our Sake*, He was crucified so our sins would be forgiven.

The second word of Jesus from the cross in Luke's Gospel is, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23:43) What comfort at a moment of incredible pain and suffering, like a desert oasis or springs from a dry stone. Jesus' promise is for one and all. We who die in the LORD are with Him. As He came to be with us, so now we are with Him. While we may sometimes need some alone time to refresh and reflect, we are social beings created for community. We yearn to be accepted and embraced as much as we seek to love and embrace those

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 AM	<i>Bible Class and Sunday School</i>
10:00 AM	<i>Divine Worship Service</i> (in-person and live stream)
7:00 PM	<i>Bible Study</i> (live stream)

OTHER EVENTS

Go to ilcseoul.org > Upcoming for other events

around us. Jesus' cross assures us that we will not be turned away but instead brought home. *For Our Sake*, Jesus was crucified so that we would be with Him in Paradise.

Jesus' third word from the cross is, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" (Luke 23:46) This last triumphant cry is Jesus' bold declaration of what the cross is to Jesus – complete surrender to the Father's will and plan of salvation. As Jesus releases His life-giving spirit and is extinguished, He does so with intentionality. His life is not snatched away or snuffed out. His life is handed over to the One, the ONLY ONE, who declares in Deuteronomy 32:39, "See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god beside me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand." On the cross, Jesus commits Himself to the Father so that we would know His commitment to us every day. We know what it is to make a commitment. We make commitments every day. At home, school, or work, we are committing ourselves to care for others, and we are acknowledging how God cares for us through the hands of other people. While our commitments sometimes fall short, Jesus' commitment never fails. *For Our Sake*, He was crucified so His commitment to the Father would fulfill our commitment in Him. In practical ways, this means that our feeble commitments are transformed in Him to care for our neighbor even in ways we never thought possible. Just as Joseph and Nicodemus quietly cared for the lifeless body of their "secret" Teacher, their actions boldly revealed the most amazing news ever – that Jesus who was crucified *For Our Sake* was also raised on the third day to bring us into His rest! God fill you with hope as together we walk to the cross and the empty tomb this week!

Pastor Carl

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Unless otherwise noted, you may direct inquiries for any announcement to seoulilc.volunteer@gmail.com. Links to online or live stream events will be included in either the electronic version of *The Messenger* or will be sent out on Sunday morning.

HOLY WEEK

Today we mark the Sunday of the Passion, which is the beginning of Holy Week. This week we recall Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem riding on the foal of a donkey (also celebrated today as Palm Sunday), His somber celebration of the Passover feast with His disciples (Maundy Thursday), and His betrayal and crucifixion (Good Friday). But hope is near! Next week we join in the joyful celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter Day), knowing that eternal death and separation from our Heavenly Father has been defeated through the work of Jesus.

MAUNDY THURSDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY

This Thursday, a seder meal will be celebrated in the Christian fashion prior to the Maundy Thursday Service of Communion. To give as many people the opportunity to join in this event, first-time participants will be given priority to fill the 25 available slots. A Service of the Word will take place at 7PM to mark Good Friday.

EASTER BRUNCH

Next Sunday join us for an Easter Brunch following the service. Special activities are planned for the children.

GUEST PREACHER

We are happy to welcome Rev. Matthew Wood, Area Facilitator for the Office of International Mission of the LCMS. Pastor Wood will be our preacher today. Welcome to Korea and ILC!

ILC CLEAN-UP DAY

Today, after the service, partake in some outdoor spring cleaning, from 12 - 1:30PM. If rain complicates our efforts, we will reschedule for a later date.

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

ONLINE GIVING - NEW ACCOUNT

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN FAITHFULLY MAKING USE OF ONLINE GIVING.

NEW: Please note that we are switching to receive deposits to a new account. The Citibank account is still open, but over these next few months we will be closing that account. Thank you!

KEB HANA 166-890039-91604

READINGS

April 13: Sunday of the Passion

OT	Deuteronomy 32:36-39
NT	Philippians 2:5-11
Gospel	Luke 22:1-56

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

If you are interested in serving as a worship assistant, or need to make a scheduling adjustment, please write to seoulilc.volunteer@gmail.com. Thank you!

APRIL 13

10:00 AM

ACOLYTE	Juwon & Carmen
GREETER	Christian
USHERS	Michelle & Ethan
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Matt
LIVE STREAM	Christian
KITCHEN HELPERS	Dee Dee & Joey
OFFERING COUNTERS	Sungwoo & Rachel

