

Moving through Holy Week to the Joy of Easter



"If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's." (Romans 14:8)

Easter is an amazing celebration of life. Each year, I look forward to the joy and outpouring of love on Easter morning. It's a wonderful time. But before Easter, we first move through Holy Week. Palm Sunday--a triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Maundy Thursday--Holy Communion shared for the first time followed by betrayal. Good Friday--the cross and death. Saturday--silence and waiting. And then the joy of Easter.

In the book of Hebrews, Jesus is called the "pioneer and perfecter of our faith." Where we will go, Jesus has already gone--perfectly. Like Jesus, our lives will have amazing joys, deep sorrows, and a lot of level places, those times in between the mountains and the valleys. In all of those times, the good news is that God is always with us. In life and in death, we are the Lord's.

As we move through this Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and beyond, may our identity as God's people send us out in love. Confident that God is always with us, may we be set free to love the world that God loves so deeply. And when our time comes to die, may our risen Lord give us confidence in the love of God which goes even beyond death to life everlasting.

In Christ,

Pastor John Gerike

