



The Weight of Words

How does each sermon connect to this theme?

Over the next few weeks, we will celebrate the highest holy days of the year in the events leading up to the Passion and resurrection of Christ, and what immediately followed. Because we commemorate these events in the life of Christ every year, the words of stories may blur together or become mundane. In order to refocus our minds and hearts on these culminating acts of the incarnation, quotes have been lifted directly from Scripture to emphasize.

The first Sunday commemorates the institution of communion in the Last Supper. As Jesus breaks the bread and pours the wine, He offers them to His disciples, saying, “**This is My body.**”

The second Sunday brings us into the crowd who accompany Jesus on His entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. This sermon will answer the question of the people - “**Who is this?**” He is our Prophet, Priest, and King.

Standing at the cross on Good Friday, we will uncover the dichotomy of truth revealed in the mocking voices that taunt Jesus. We will bear witness to His suffering, utterly alone and abandoned, expressed in His cry, “My God, My God, **why have You forsaken Me?**”

Easter Sunday brings us to the empty tomb, where we hear what the women hear: He is not here! This surprising truth prompts them to go and deliver the message, “**He is risen!**”

And finally, with the disciples encountering the Risen Lord on the mountain, we will hear Him proclaim, “**All authority has been given to Me.**”

We journey through this Passiontide together to achieve a greater weight of appreciation of God’s all-encompassing love. Further, we also realize that our God is fashioning the weightiness of the new creation while we navigate homeward.

Wishing you most blessed holy days,

John S. Schnabel

Sunday April 6, 2025

Theme: The Weight of Words

Title: “This is My body”

Message: In Holy Communion we partake of the body and blood of Jesus.

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.”

Matthew 26: 26

Summary

- The institution of Holy Communion took place shortly before Jesus’ crucifixion.
- The body and blood of Christ are truly present in the bread and wine. It is for this reason that believers receive salvation in them.
- Those who celebrate Holy Communion not only commemorate the death of Christ but also profess it as an event of salvation.

Sunday April 13, 2025 – Palm Sunday

Theme: Palm Sunday

Title: Who is this?

Message: Jesus Christ reveals Himself as King of the Jews.

And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, “Who is this?” So the multitudes said, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee.”

Matthew 21: 10–11

Summary

- The people in Jerusalem reduced the Lord’s activity to that of a prophet.
- He is King, Priest, and Prophet.
- Faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior can only come about through the Holy Spirit.
- Even today, the Holy Spirit leads believers into the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Friday April 18, 2025 – Good Friday

Theme: The Weight of Words

Title: “Why have You forsaken Me?”

Message: On Good Friday we remember the suffering and death of Jesus.

And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, “You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”

Matthew 27:39-40

Summary

- The Crucified One is mocked and seen as a failed Messiah.
- Jesus is the Son of God who humbles Himself and allows Himself to be mocked.
- The death of Jesus allows human beings to have salvation and eternal fellowship with God.
- Let us bear witness to this.

Sunday April 20, 2025 – Easter

Theme: Easter

Title: He is risen!

Message: Faith is essential for our salvation.

Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons. She went and told those who had been with Him, as they mourned and wept.

Mark 16: 9–10

Summary

- The resurrection affirms God's merciful love and forgiveness.
- Salvation promises eternal life and fellowship with God.
- Those who follow Jesus become a new creation.
- Jesus sends us out to announce the good news of His resurrection and return.

Sunday April 27, 2025

Theme: The Weight of Words

Title: "All authority has been given to me."

Message: The Risen One has all authority and power.

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."

Matthew 28: 18

Summary

- Christ has all power over creation, humankind, and the spirits.
- The resurrection of Jesus Christ shows that He is the Saviour sent by God.
- Jesus reveals the loving God.
- His love reveals itself in forgiveness and completion.