



Theme: The Art of Salvation – Jesus in the Gospel of Luke
“Salvation in Celebration and Struggle”

Sermon preached by Jeff Huber, April 9-10, 2022, at Summit Church, Durango

Weekly Memory Verse:

***³⁸ “Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven, and glory in highest heaven!” – Luke 19:38***

VIDEO Sermon Starter (Luke 19:28-40 from Lumo Project)

<https://www.bible.com/videos/25198-luke-19-28-48?collection=21>

(Start to 1:41)

SLIDE “Salvation in Celebration and Struggle”

This weekend, our children celebrated at our Easter Family Event, and I wanted to give you a glimpse of how the remembered this parade of Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem the last week of his life.

GRAPHIC Art 1

GRAPHIC Art 2

GRAPHIC Art 3

GRAPHIC Art 4

I love these images of kids celebrating, and the way they have a great time waving palm branches when we began worship. We’ve been

doing a sermon series on the “Art of Salvation,” because the idea of being made whole, being renewed, being restored, is meant to wash over us like a good work of art. It is meant to be experienced, and today we’ll talk about how that experience include time of celebration, and times of struggle.

Have you ever been invited to a party and been excited to go? When I was a freshman at the University of Colorado in Boulder, I remember how excited I was that first weekend to be invited to a party by the awesome and popular upper-class person who lived on our floor. She was cute too! I figured I was in the popular crowd, and I couldn’t wait to go. There was nervousness and anticipation to begin this NEW chapter of my life. I hated high school as I transferred to my new schools in 8th grade and never really connected with folks, other than some of the sports teams and youth group at church. What better way to start this new time in my life than with a party!

That’s exactly what those early followers of Jesus were thinking as they welcomed him into Jerusalem, believing this was the moment he would be crowned king and they would get to be part of it all! There was a new dawn coming and they couldn’t wait to get the party started and be at the center of this new movement.

SLIDE Jesus is the King

I would remind you that an underlying message in each of the Gospels is that Jesus is the King. Jesus preaches and teaches about the kingdom of God. Jesus lays out what life looks like for us as subjects in the kingdom of God. Jesus himself is the long-awaited messianic King. Remember that Christ is not the last name of Jesus, but rather a title which means, “The anointed one.”

SLIDE Christ = “anointed one” or King

Jesus had taken a journey from the Sea of Galilee in the north down through Samaria, into Jericho where he met Zaccheaus as we talked about last week, and finally into Jerusalem. This King would

usher in this new Kingdom and offer salvation, which means to be restored and made whole.

SLIDE Salvation = “to be restored and made whole”

Just before he comes to Jerusalem, he and his disciples are in Jericho which is where he spent the last night of his life outside of Jerusalem. On that first Palm Sunday morning Jesus and his disciples would have left Jericho probably about six in the morning when the sun came up. They would begin this 16-mile journey to the city of Jerusalem. It would've taken about six hours because it is a very treacherous path and road. Using Google Earth and satellite technology we are going to take you from Jericho to Jerusalem. Look at the video screen.

VIDEO Jericho to Jerusalem

The Dead Sea is to the right, and you can see the modern-day city of Jericho which is built on ancient ruins. They travel from Jericho through the wilderness of Judea which looks like this. Can you see why it took six hours to travel these 15 or 16 miles on foot? They traveled across these hills which are very arid and desert like. They finally come to the last of these hills before they arrive at Jerusalem. This final hill is the Mount of Olives. As they come to the top of this Mount Jesus mounts a donkey and descends the Mount of Olives. He then will come to the Temple Mount which today is the home of the Dome of the Rock which is the third holiest Muslim shrine. Where the Dome of the Rock stands today is where the Temple stood in Jesus' day. Jesus would have seen the great Temple that Herod reconstructed.

VIDEO Herod's Temple (Capture first 30 seconds of this)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQQyNVw8Pf4&ab_channel=MessagesofChrist

This was the palace that belonged to the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. This is what Jesus sees as he comes into Jerusalem.

Jesus has prepared for this entrance. He has prearranged for a donkey to be ready by sending two disciples ahead. Why do you suppose that Jesus asked for a donkey now after he has just walked 16 miles? You would have thought that Jesus might ask for a donkey at the beginning of the six-hour journey, but this is not about Jesus' personal comfort. This is a sign that he is giving to the people in Jerusalem. Jesus is making it clear that he is a long-awaited messianic King. In case they did not know before they will know it now. This sign of entering Jerusalem upon a donkey was foretold by the Hebrew prophet Zechariah in chapter 9.

BIBLE

**⁹ Rejoice, O people of Zion!
Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem!
Look, your king is coming to you.
He is righteous and victorious,
yet he is humble, riding on a donkey—
riding on a donkey's colt.**

550 years earlier the prophet Zechariah said these words, speaking of a king who would come. When the people saw Jesus on a donkey, they instantly recognized the sign. The disciples and the crowd began to gather and shout these words in Luke's gospel which are our memory verse for the week. Let's SHOUT them together!

BIBLE

**³⁸ "Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven, and glory in highest heaven!" –**

They began to cut off palm branches and wave them in the air as they sing these words because palm branches are a sign of royalty. This was going to be THE party. Celebration was meant to be part of this moment and part of salvation. What kind of King were they hoping that he would be? They were saying to him, "Cleanse this area of the Romans! Cast out our oppressors and the occupying forces of the

Romans. Help us not ever to pay Roman taxes again, and restore the glory of Israel. Jesus, do it now! Save us now! Hosanna the son of David!”

Do it again Jesus. Do what other Jewish kings had done before you. This is the King they were expecting. This is what they were crying out on that day. Over the 150 years before Jesus came on the scene there were dozens of would-be messiahs who came to do exactly what the people were hoping for—to lead the people in an open rebellion against the Romans and cast out the oppressors.

But Jesus was not one of them. Jesus had a different way. Jesus was calling them to a kingdom that would transcend all race and boundaries and geographies and political alliances. It was the kingdom of the heart in which people are following God. Jesus laid out for people a very different path, a path that would have led to peace. But they didn’t understand that, and they didn’t really want it. This is why it was easy for them to turn their backs on him by Friday of that final week—because Jesus was not doing what they had hoped for. He was not answering their prayer or their shouts of praise as they intended.

SLIDE What kind of King was Jesus?

He is one that would invite us into a kingdom of wholeness, healing, and being restored. He invited us to serve and give ourselves away, instead of demanding our way. It’s one of the reasons we give away our Easter offering, as a way of celebrating what this new King and new Kingdom is about. The two recipients this year are the Shanta Foundation and Native Hope. Let’s celebrate together what this offering will do.

VIDEO Easter Offering Recipients

While we celebrate what we will be doing with this offering, just as we celebrate the 33K you all gave for Ukraine relief, we also know the work is not yet done and there are still struggles ahead. This weekend, I was blessed to be part of the most recent house blessing for

a family receiving a Habitat for Humanity house. Linda Abeyta and her son AJ are a wonderful family and Rachel Taylor-Saghie does a beautiful job as the Director of Habitat presenting a basket with bread, symbolic of the family never growing hungry, salt symbolizing spice and flavor in life, a plant for new life, and a candle representing the light of God. We give them Bibles on behalf of Summit Church and then we move to each room of the house and pray a blessing in their home, and upon each of the family member. Our Directional Team chair, Tami Joslin, is part of our Habitat Hammer Club and was there today as well.

GRAPHIC Linda receiving candle from Rachel

GRAPHIC Tami w/Linda and AJ receiving golden key

While we had a great celebration, there also was a hint of sadness as the family was dealing with a very recent tragedy and grief of losing young a loved one, while another young person is in the hospital fighting for their life after a car accident. Linda's father also had a stroke recently, and while we celebrated this new home, we also remembered that life is filled with moments of celebration and moments of struggle. Jesus recognized this as he came down from the Mount of Olives where the parade turns quickly to reflection and struggle.

BIBLE

⁴¹ **As Jesus came to the city and observed it, he wept over it.**

As he heads into Jerusalem he pauses, and he weeps. What a strange thing for Jesus to do. Jesus only weeps twice in the Gospels. He doesn't weep when people have rejected him. He doesn't weep when he is praying in the Garden of Gethsemane the night before he was crucified. He doesn't weep as they are nailing him to the cross. He doesn't weep as he is hanging from the cross. Jesus only weeps two times. He cries when his friend Lazarus dies, and he sees the grief of people all around him.

And Jesus weeps as he looks over the city of Jerusalem coming down on the donkey from the Mount of Olives. The place that Jesus stopped to weep is now marked by a chapel. Here is a picture of that chapel.

GRAPHIC Dominus Flevit church

GRAPHIC Dominus Flevit Interior

That phrase means, “The Lord wept here.” You will notice that the building is shaped like an inverted teardrop. As you go inside the chapel there is a window that overlooks the city of Jerusalem, and you can see the Dome of the Rock. This is the view that Jesus would have had that day. Why does Jesus weep? What are his tears about? Luke tells us in these next lines of the passage.

BIBLE

⁴² He said, “If only you knew on this of all days the things that lead to peace. But now they are hidden from your eyes. ⁴³ The time will come when your enemies will build fortifications around you, encircle you, and attack you from all sides. ⁴⁴ They will crush you completely, you and the people within you. They won’t leave one stone on top of another within you, because you didn’t recognize the time of your gracious visit from God.”

Jesus weeps as he looks over the city of Jerusalem because he knows what is going to happen. He knows that the people will reject the path that he laid out for them. He knows that they will follow others who will take up the sword and rebel against the Romans. And he knows that when they rebel against the Romans they will be utterly crushed and destroyed. Jesus knows that within 40 years the city of Jerusalem will lay in ruins.

As he looks over the city of Jerusalem and sees the holy Temple, he sees in his own mind what is to come. And he weeps before the people who were there. Let me remind you of what is going to happen.

Jesus will be crucified and buried and then he will rise from the dead. A band of small followers will continue to believe in him but most of the people will not. They will continue to wait for a Messiah who was going to overthrow the Romans. In A.D. 66 there are three different would-be messiahs who will try to lead the people in open rebellion against the Romans. The three will actually be in conflict with one another.

There were some initial victories which took place and when word got back to Rome then Rome sent the 10th Legion. They sent their best troops to Jerusalem to quell the rebellion. They were led by the next Emperor of the Roman Empire, and they marched first in the northern regions of Galilee. They began their path of destruction by killing many Jews until they finally surrendered in the north area of Galilee. The Samaritans had already declared a truce with the Roman Empire, so the Roman Legion continued straight through Samaria and marched onto Jerusalem without any resistance.

They arrived at Jerusalem and surrounded the city. The city walls acted as a barricade that kept the Romans out to begin with and all the rebels fled to Jerusalem and hid within the city walls. But inside the walls they had their own infighting amongst each other which helped their downfall occur. They held up inside the city walls for 3 ½ years during which time they consumed most of their food. There was a severe famine inside and not much access to water.

The Romans built ramparts up the city walls and as some of the Jews tried to escape the Romans would capture them and crucified him. They crucified so many Jews in the entire city was surrounded by crosses filled with crucified people. They would have to take down crosses with dead bodies on them quickly because they had more crosses to put up, they were crucifying so many Jews.

Finally in August of 70 A.D. the Romans breached the walls and invaded Jerusalem. They went into the temple and took all the holy and valuable items and carried them away to Rome. They took 90,000

slaves back to Rome as booty to demonstrate their victory. They slaughtered 1.1 million Jews inside the city which included mostly children, youth and women. They burned the city to the ground. They tore down the stone buildings and ripped up the foundation of some the buildings. Josephus, the Jewish historian who came to Jerusalem several years later, wrote that you wouldn't even believe there was once a magnificent city when you see the ruins that are left behind.

GRAPHIC The Arch of Titus

GRAPHIC The arch of Titus Close up

This is what Jesus sees as they pursue the way of the sword. In Rome you can see the arch of Titus which celebrates the victory of the Roman legion against the Jews. You can see the soldiers carrying the menorah from the Temple as well as other Temple furnishings, along with the slaves they brought with them. This is a celebration of a great victory over people who were crushed.

SLIDE Jesus recognizes two paths

There are two paths which are laid out before the people and Jesus recognizes this. Today, there are still two paths laid out in life. There is a narrow path which is hard and difficult but it leads to life. It is the way of peace, not only in the world but in the heart. There is a broad path which is wide, and it often leads to destruction. One path leads away from God and the other path leads towards God kingdom. One path will offer hope and joy in life and the other path will offer a dead end and destruction. That other path however seems so appealing to us. It seems to make sense and our heart often yearns for that broad path. Jesus tells those who are following him to take the narrow path which he had already laid out for them. He said to them, **“We’ll conquer the Romans, but we will conquer them with sacrificial love and not the sword.”**

Jesus gave them rules for his kingdom. He said that when the Roman soldier commands you to carry his pack for 1 mile, which he was

allowed to do under Roman law, then what are you supposed to do? You carry it a second mile. When they demand your coat, you give them your cloak also. When they strike you on the cheek, what are you supposed to do? You turn the other cheek. You are supposed to love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. Do good to those who wrong you. Show mercy to those who require or need your forgiveness, even if they have not asked.

Jesus says that this is what life in the kingdom of God looks like, and in living this way, Israel would defeat her enemies. Israel was called to be a light to the nations and show the rest of the world how human beings are meant to live, and it is the only path which leads to peace, but they could not see it. Jesus weeps when he says, **“Oh Jerusalem, if only you knew the way that leads to peace, what you would not.”**

Instead, it would be the sword and a revolt against the Romans. It would be the desire to not pay taxes anymore and give to Caesar what is Caesar's. It would be the desire for fame and wealth and all the things that would come when they were their own kingdom ruled by their own King. But God says, “I don't care about that stuff. There is a way that I have intended for human beings to live, and this leads to peace and salvation, but the path you are choosing does not.”

There is a cycle of violence that happens when kings of this world try to build kingdoms by taking power. Jesus reminds us as he celebrates on a donkey, and then weeps, that the only way out is to love your enemies. But that doesn't make any sense to anybody, and this is why Jesus wept. This is true in Ukraine and Russia, Afghanistan, and Iraq. It is true not just in foreign countries where there is violence, but it is true in other dimensions of our lives.

I had a man start coming to church when I was a youth pastor some 25 years ago. He came to me and shared that his son had spiraled into drug abuse and addiction. He loved his son so much, but he felt helpless as he watched him go to prison and destroy his life. He was

associating with people who are dangerous and eventually his health began to deteriorate. The father sobbed as he shared with me his son's story. He weeps over his son because he sees that there is a path that would lead to life and peace and joy and hope for his son, but his son is taking his other path which is easier and wider but leads to destruction.

There are two paths in life and Jesus calls us to the narrow path. In many ways, when we take that path, we find joy and peace that we have never known. But, when we stray from that path, ultimately, we find pain, heartache and separation from God and others. Lent is a time where we ask a simple question.

SLIDE Am I on the right path?

Am I still following on the journey with Jesus, or have I begun to stray from the path? We see this in many ways in our culture. Several years ago, there was a PBS documentary done about roadside memorials. Those places where you see crosses erected on the side of a road because someone has died in that spot. One of the families featured was a family from Mexico, the Sanchez family. They were involved in an accident where a woman was driving intoxicated. Her car crossed the median and slammed into their car, and their twin 12-year-old boys were killed. The woman who was drinking and driving was killed as well.

The Sanchez couple survived, and they set up a **roadside memorial**. They maintain this memorial to this day and the grease is still very fresh and real for them. They have set up not only crosses to remember their sons but also lights which keep the memorial lit all night and through all kinds of weather.

What took my breath away was when they described how they also created a memorial for the woman who had killed their sons, the driver of the other car. They said that this woman too was someone's daughter. She also was a child of God. She had made a terrible decision which had tragic consequences in their life that they would always carry

with them. But they had a choice. They could hang onto hate for the rest of their lives, or they could remember that this woman who took the lives of their sons was also a child of God. They take flowers to her cross which sits next to their sons' crosses at the same time they take flowers to their children.

I have a hard time fathoming how you can do that, but for them it was clear it was a determination to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and take the narrow and difficult path which leads to peace instead of the wide path of vengeance and bitterness which can lead to destruction. Which of those two paths would you take? Would you have continued bitterness and anger towards the woman who took the lives of your children, or would you take the path that leads to creating a memorial? Which of those two paths lead to peace? Which one would bring any hope of healing in your heart?

I heard from a woman whose **company was downsizing** and everyone she worked with was waiting to hear whether they would have a job or not in the next few weeks. She said there has been overwhelming anxiety in their office and amid all that she began to pray. As she prayed, she heard God speak to her and say, **"Don't worry about yourself, help others around you."**

Suddenly she felt a peace that even if she lost her job, she knew that God was going to take care of her and that her role was to take care of other people in their anxiety. She had a mission, and she knew it would be okay if she pursued that narrow path. She felt God assuring her through God's desire for her to serve others. If she would serve other people, she knew it would be okay.

That is the narrow path. Which path are you taking? Are there areas in your life where you have strayed from the path? Do you think Jesus still weeps over nations today? Do you think Jesus still weeps over cities and over people in our lives? Do you think Jesus looks at us at times and says, **"Please don't do that because it will lead to pain?"**

Please come back.”

Here is what I know in my own life. There are moments where I stray from the path. I don't even realize it at first. It just happens slowly and by degrees.

SLIDE Where does Jesus weep in your life?

Today is the day to come back on the right path. Jesus is King over a kingdom where there is second and third and fourth and an infinite number of chances. Today is the day to return to God. Let's conclude with this. Jesus doesn't just stop at the top of the Mount of Olives and weep. He continues down through the Kidron Valley and then up into the magnificent temple of Herod. The moment he does that it becomes clear to the people who have been shouting, “Hosanna to the son of David! Deliver us from the Romans,” that Jesus is here to do something other than that.

Instead of standing in giving a moving speech that rally the people to revolt Jesus walks into the Temple and he begins to cleanse the Temple. Listen to how it is described in Luke's gospel 19:45.

BIBLE

Then Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out the people selling animals for sacrifices.

This is a strange thing. In one of the Gospels, it says that Jesus literally took a whip and drove out those who were selling animals and moneychangers. Jesus is really angry, and his anger is not directed at the Romans. His anger is directed at those who are buying and selling and leading in the temple courts.

GRAPHIC Herod's Temple Model

Let me give you a little bit of historical background so it makes some sense. If you look at the video screen you will see an image of the Temple that we saw earlier. You will see the inner courts which are meant for the men and the priests. The outer courts were for women,

and the broadest courts were for those who were Gentiles and from other nations who came to pray at the Temple.

In these outer courts, the money changers would set up their tables to exchange currency for those who were visiting. Also, people sold doves and other animals for sacrifice. When it came to exchanging currency, the priests had set up a rule that you had to pay a Temple tax every year. Usually, people would pay it every year when you came to Jerusalem for Passover. The Temple tax was about two day's wages. You would give two day's wages to support the Temple in addition to your tithes and offerings. Jesus didn't seem to have a problem with the Temple tax.

Here was the problem. The priests had declared that you had to pay the Temple tax in a certain kind of currency. You couldn't use any old currency, but you had to exchange whatever you brought for the right kind of currency. You could not pay in Roman currency because it had the image of the Emperor on it, which meant it had an engraved image and you couldn't present that as an offering. You couldn't bring gold or silver either. The truth is that most people didn't have the right kind of currency so when they came into the temple courts you had to exchange your money for temple currency.

It would be like if we set up money exchange tables in the back of the sanctuary and told you that you needed to pay your tithes and offerings in Summit Church money. You had to exchange your currency, whatever it is you have, for Summit Church money. You might think that sounds kind of strange but maybe you would be willing to do it.

GRAPHIC Summit Church Dollars

Then we would say, "By the way, those people who are exchanging your currency, they need to be paid as well." Then some of the staff would get a little fee for each of you who exchange your currency for Summit Church money. Are you are following along with how this works?

So, what was the fee for the currency exchange? You know if you travel overseas that you must exchange currency and there usually is a little up charge. I got my credit card statement from when we were in the Holy Land a few years ago and there was a small fee tacked on for the currency exchange. In the temple courts the common exchange fee for changing your money into the currency that was acceptable and the Temple was three hours wages. Then there was the issue that if you did not have the correct change and you wanted change back, they would charge you another three hours in wages just to make change for you.

Are you beginning to understand why Jesus is upset when he walks into the Temple? The animal that people offered as a sacrifice at the Temple if they were poor, was a dove. If you had any money, then you might offer something nicer as an offering. A dove outside the temple courts would sell for about one day's wages. You were supposed to offer an animal which is unblemished and perfect so if you wanted a certified and perfectly unblemished animal you had to buy inside the temple courts, and the doves inside the temple courts Barclay says sold for 20 days wages. One day's wages outside the Temple but 20 days wages inside the Temple was the price charged to a poor person or peasant so they could make an appropriate sacrifice to God.

Now you understand why when Jesus walked into the temple courts, he began to overturn the tables of the money changers. He drives out those who are selling doves because they were literally stealing from the people. The priests were being enriched as were the people who were doing the work. Jesus then quotes the prophet Jeremiah in the last line from the text from Luke 19:46.

BIBLE

He said to them, "The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be a house of prayer,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves."

"You have turned the Temple into a den of thieves, and you are

stealing from the people.” You are using God to enrich your pocketbooks. There was no problem with the priests being paid something because God prescribes that. But, somehow, they decided they needed more.

Here is a powerful idea as we think about this story. Those people who were priests and in charge of the Temple in the day of Jesus started out on the right track. They want to serve God. They gave themselves to that ministry. Those who are selling doves probably started out because they want to help people. They want to serve people. But somewhere along the way they have allowed themselves to believe that they could take just a little more advantage of the people as they did that day after day, they found themselves not serving God first, but money. Remember that Jesus said, ***“You must decide who is going to be first in your life. Is it God or is it money?”***

He said that because it was a challenge in the first century and it still is a challenge for us today. How easily it is that money becomes the most important thing in our lives. Jesus said that one will be Lord and one will be the servant. Which will it be for you?

Remember that the apostle Paul said, ***“The LOVE of money is the root of all kinds of evil.”*** This is true for these servants who were probably good to begin with, but they ended up compromising themselves.

The truth is that it is not just money. There are so many areas where we begin to compromise ourselves without realizing it. We even use our faith as a cover when we are doing things we shouldn’t be doing or thinking. The season of Lent is a time of self-examination in which we say, ***“God, what is it that you weep over our lives? What is it in our Temple (our heart) that Jesus needs to cleanse?”***

We all allow things to sneak into our hearts—practices, thoughts, deeds—that have no business being there. Sometimes, we don’t even realize it. Where does Jesus need to cleanse our hearts today? These

are the questions I would leave with you today. If only the people had known the things that make for peace. They would have known that Jesus came to be a deliverer but a different kind of deliverer, one who offers salvation and being made whole. Jesus came to suffer on our behalf. He came to cleanse us from our broken places. Jesus came to save us from ourselves and the path that we typically want to take because it's easier. Jesus came because he loves us. He weeps over us and our brokenness.

As we move through this week towards Easter, we celebrate AND we cry out to Jesus, now knowing what the words mean, **“Hosanna! Save us Jesus from ourselves!”**

We recognize that sometimes Jesus weeps over us and we ask, **“Where have I gotten off track? Lord, help me to get back on track again. Help me to follow in your footsteps and to be a part of your kingdom.”**

Then we invite Jesus to come and to cleanse our Temple and to make us whole and clean and new again. That is still the invitation from Jesus to each one of us today, to follow a King that longs to save us from ourselves, knowing the life is filled with both moments of celebration and moments of struggle.

GRAPHIC Breaking of the Bread

This entire week of Jesus' life that we are going to remember does end in resurrection, and it begins with a parade, but in between there is great struggle. The culmination of that struggle is today's artwork, the story of the breaking of the bread. We're going to remember this meal on Thursday this week at 6 p.m. here in the Sanctuary and again at 7:30 p.m. up at Fort Lewis College with our Rooted students. At this meal, just would celebrate being the bread of life and the King who offers forgiveness, wholeness, and being restored. That does come at a cost, which would be his life. There is celebration, and there is struggle. This is life.

GRAPHIC Way of Salvation Slides

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, talks about this in his “Way of Salvation.” There is this movement from being created good; God loving us even as we get selfish and focus on ourselves, which is Prevenient Grace; us recognizing what God has done for us as we receive Justifying Grace for our broken places; and then God’s Sanctifying Grace working with us as we experience the ups and downs of life. All of that is leading us onto Perfection, or Salvation, where we are becoming like Christ. These words of celebration are meant to remind us of who is King and what peace and salvation really look like. Let’s say these words together again.

BIBLE

***³⁸ “Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven, and glory in highest heaven!” – Luke 19:38***

SLIDE Prayer

Would you please bow with me in prayer as we close this time together? As you have your head bowed and your eyes closed, I remind you that repentance is to be open to those places in our lives where we have fallen short of God’s will, and to ask God to change our hearts—to change how we think—to change what we do.

We all have said things we wish we had not said, done things we should not have done, and not done things we should have done but didn’t do. So, I want to invite you to take a moment and simply ask, “Lord, forgive me for the things that I have done or left undone. Wash me clean and make me new.”

If you can think of them, take a minute to name those places where you might have strayed from the path and invite God to set you back on the right path again. If you can’t think of any you might simply pray, “Jesus, help me to follow you.”

Pause...

Lord, you read us like an open book. You know our hearts. You know the things that we do in secret that no one else sees or knows. You know the places oh God where we deceive ourselves, and where we stray from your path. Forgive us as a nation for those times that we have moved in directions that cause you to weep over us. Forgive us as individuals oh God. Forgive us for the times that we have strayed from your path—when we have walked away from you and your kingdom—when we have brought pain to ourselves or others.

Lord, we ask that you cleanse our temples. Wash our hearts and make them new. Help us to love you with our whole heart and to love our neighbors. Forgive the times that we have compromised and fallen short of your will. Help us to faithfully serve you—You who are our King of Kings and our Lord of Lords. Hosanna Lord—save us now—in your Holy Name. Amen.

April 9-10 Order

1. Ely welcomes people and says, **“Today we continue our journey through the gospel of Luke, focusing on how celebration and struggle are both important to salvation, being made whole, and being restored.”**
2. Two Songs
3. Jeff welcomes and invites people to wave and be seated.
4. Announcements by Jeff (Check News Section on Website)
 - a. SWAG in Sending Grounds
 - b. Holy Week and Easter weekend schedule
 - c. Sunrise service, BRING YOUR CHAIR!
5. Invite congregation to prepare their hearts for the message.
6. Sermon
7. Prayer
8. Two Songs
9. Prayer and Lord’s Prayer
10. Offering SLIDE and Focus (Easter Offering and \$33k given for Ukraine)
11. Care Ministers (If any are present)
12. Prayers and Closing Thoughts
 - a. Holy Week Schedule
 - b. New Worship Schedule
13. Closing Prayer