

April 5,2020

This is the third Sunday that we haven't met together for worship at the church, but instead have streamed a shortened version of the service. Note: We will not be meeting through the end of April. Lord willing, we will begin the regular church schedule in May. Stay tuned for more on this as the situation develops.

Sermon title: Suffering and Joy Texts: John 12:12-13 "The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. 13 They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the king of Israel!" (NIV)

Hebrews 12:2-3 "And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (NIV)

Revelation 7:9-14 After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. 10 And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." 11 All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!" 13 Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?" 14 I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." (NIV)

🏰 Jesus entered Jerusalem with people lining the road and cheering. 🏰 However, this joy and celebration was only temporary. In five days these same people would be calling for Jesus to be put to death on a cross. More importantly, this life we now live is only temporary. After this life we will enter eternity. 🏰 We will all be judged for what we have said and done. 🏰 Hebrews 9:27-28 "Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so

Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many;" (NIV) 🏰 On this day of celebration Jesus was also sad. John 12:27-28 "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!" (NIV) 🏰 Jesus knew that he would die within a

week. 🎬 His motivation is revealed in Hebrews 12:2 “For the joy set before him he endured the cross,

scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” 🎬 What joy does this mean? Possibly the joy of being in heaven at the Father’s right hand. 🎬 Also possibly the satisfaction of finishing his mission to earth to give his life and be resurrected. 🎬 I think there is great joy for him in looking forward to having us in heaven with him. 🎬 Jesus created the world and us. (John 1:1,3 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was

with God and the Word was God. All things were made through him and without him was not any thing made that was made.” (ESV) Jesus is the Word.) Jesus created us the way he wanted us to be. But our first representatives believed the lie of the tempter and rebelled against God. This ruined the perfect relationship we had with God and the joy we gave and received. 🎬 We cannot return ourselves to that relationship. Only Jesus can restore the damage done in us

spiritually. 🎬 The first Palm Sunday was only a shadow (a temporary one) of the real one in heaven. 🎬 Revelation 7:9-10 “After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” (NIV) 🎬 The people from all the nations are wearing white robes, washed by the blood of Jesus. 🎬 Revelation 22:14-15 “Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.” 🎬 Only those with white robes will be allowed to enter heaven. This is speaking spiritually. To

have a robe washed white we must believe in Jesus as God, and ask him to take away our sin. We aren’t made perfect then, but we are forgiven when we earnestly turn to God and keep seeking to obey him. 🎬 The first Palm Sunday was tempered with sadness at the coming destruction of Jerusalem and at the suffering that Jesus would endure for us. Through the ages there has been suffering, but it points to another time of great joy, when the dream of this life ends and we wake to the reality of eternity. 🎬 We all will live forever, the question is, where will that be? Will it be heaven, in the joy of unbroken relationship with our God and maker, or will it be far from him in continuing misery and sorrow?