

**St. Luke Ev. Lutheran  
Church**

**By Pastor Anthony E.  
Schultz**

**Palm Sunday**

**March 25, 2018**



**Philippians 2:5-11 Year A EHV**

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, let this attitude be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. <sup>6</sup>Though he was by nature God, he did not consider equality with God as a prize to be displayed, <sup>7</sup>but he emptied himself by taking the nature of a servant. When he was born in human likeness, and his appearance was like that of any other man, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

People of God, rescued from the flaming lake of fire in Hell by the innocent blood of the very Lamb of God:

On May 20 in the year of our Lord 1910 people gathered at Windsor Castle for the funeral of King Edward VII. That day there was a photograph taken of 9 different Kings all in the same room at the same time! They all wore very shiny black boots. They had very wide sashes across their chest 7 of them right to left—2 of them left to right. They had medals all over their chest—several with very large crosses in the middle of their chest. They all had very fancy swords. They had moustaches—some very large—almost all of them waxed—with pointy parts on each side! They all looked very serious—as back in the day they didn't say, "Smile!" Back in the day they would say, "We are taking your picture now—so look serious!" Although back then you didn't tell the King to do anything! All the kings are standing if they wished or seated if they wished—all looking very powerful—very important. That is what you would expect of a King! And yet this morning we are going to see the most powerful King of all. And yet one aspect that leaps out at you—He is Humble! Today we:

**Celebrate Our Humble King!**

- 1. Jesus humbled Himself**
- 2. Jesus' Father exalted Him!**

The part of God's Word we are concentrating on-part of the Apostle Paul's Letter to the Philippians. The city of Philippi~what does this mean? A place on the fringe of the Roman Empire. A place where once upon a time there was literally gold in the hills! Literal gold – literal riches – and thus all the blessings and all the difficulties that come with some people who suddenly had great wealth together with people who had very little resources – together with people who really wanted to suddenly have great wealth – and didn't – and resented people who did! Eventually the day came when people had dug up and sifted just about all the gold that there was. Meanwhile – back at Rome – there was terrible corruption – absolute power corrupting people absolutely to the point that on March 15<sup>th</sup> Julius Caesar was assassinated! Among the assassins men named Brutus and Cassius who began a literal civil war! On the side of the Establishment men like Octavian and Mark Antony! The decisive battle in this Civil War was fought at Philippi – Brutus and Cassius were defeated. Octavian and Mark Antony won. Octavian would return to Rome to be the new Caesar. Octavian thought his name should sound more powerful – more glorious – more "*august*" – so he changed his name to Augustus – Caesar Augustus. You have most certainly heard of him. **2 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. <sup>2</sup> (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. Luke 2 KJV.** And thus it was that our Heavenly Father determined the course of History – to keep His promise to Adam and Eve, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – King David and King Solomon and to you and to me – that the Virgin Mary would be with child and give birth to a Son and call His name Immanuel – *God with us* – the little Lord Jesus! There was a funeral just a few weeks ago for a very famous preacher and evangelist. He preached Christ crucified and risen to wash away all your sins literally around the world – sometimes in very small churches – sometimes in literal coliseums that literally held tens of thousands of people! When you speak to even pretty small groups of people – they often give you a microphone and sometime before your actual presentation they have you practice – they do a *sound check*. The person in charge of sound will tell you – "Say something – *anything!*" And what do people say? They count – 1,2,3 they say – testing – testing – 1,2,3. This famous preacher? He would say, "**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son – that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish – but have everlasting life!**" John 3:16 KJV The Gospel of the Disciple Jesus loved – Jesus under cover of night – speaking to His friend Nicodemus. **God so loved the world!** That's essential. **God so loved the world!** That's fundamental! Pastor Graham never ever wanted to miss a single change to tell someone – *anyone* – that God the Father sacrificed His one and only Son to the tortured death on a † to redeem us – to buy us back from sin and eternal death!

Literally in prison chains in Rome the Apostle Paul wrote words of encouragement to bear fruits of faith – when he wrote: "**<sup>5</sup>Indeed, let this attitude be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. <sup>6</sup>Though he was by nature God, he did not consider equality with God as a prize to be displayed, <sup>7</sup>but he emptied himself by taking the nature of a servant. When he was born in human likeness, and his appearance was like that of any other man, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.**" Attitude is everything. My attitude – my ♥ and mind will by the grace of God – be like the attitude, ♥ and mind of Jesus. Jesus is the Son of God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – from

eternity. And yet some 2,000 years ago—Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried! On Easter morning Jesus was alive again—and His triumph over death and grave was complete!

**“Though he was by nature God, he did not consider equality with God as a prize to be displayed, but he emptied himself by taking the nature of a servant. When he was born in human likeness, and his appearance was like that of any other man, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.”** Jesus did not walk around with a blinding like aura—except very briefly on the mount of transfiguration—when for a moment His holiness shined forth with Moses and Elijah beside Him—encouraging Him before He came down from the mountain top to go up to Jerusalem to die for us all. Jesus humbled Himself as He endured the mockery of those who hated Him. They tied Jesus up like a dangerous criminal—slapped Him, punched Him, scourged Him, crowned Him with thorns—they nailed Him to a † and still there they hurled insults at Him. When I was little I never knew anyone who was spit upon except Jesus. Come to find that was pretty naïve! One of my best friends fought for his country in Viet Nam. And when he came home he was spit upon at the airport on the west coast. There is an NFL Football team on the west coast—if you go to a game there wearing the jersey of the other team—some drunken fans will literally spit on you. And some of my best friends in law enforcement in Dodge County will tell you they have been spit upon by a woman/not a lady drunken driver. I can think of few things more degrading than being spit upon! Jesus endured even that—because He loves you and me so much He would pay any price to save us!

**He (Jesus) humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name...** Jesus’ name—Old Testament Joshua—means rescuer—savior. That’s exactly what Jesus is—the Savior of the world from sin and death. That’s pretty fundamental. Jesus humbled Himself—and died on a †. It’s the fundamentals that are essential. If by the grace of God I visited with you—before I married you—the class room, Drivers’ Ed—so as not to drive your marriage into the ditch I told you about Henry Aaron—Class C baseball out of Eau Claire, WI. Henry was being paid to play baseball for the first time. He hit the ball out of the park ran around the bases—stomped on home plate and was promptly called out because he failed to touch 1<sup>st</sup>. Oh, he pushed soil against the bag—but his cleats didn’t touch the canvass of 1<sup>st</sup> before touching 2<sup>nd</sup>! Henry ever after that made sure to step on first! There is a professional golfer who has gone through a pretty long dry spell—but of late is doing much better because lately he is driving down the middle of the fairway—chipping onto the green—not into sand traps and small ponds. Of late he is putting into the hole—not past the hole then short of the hole—then past the hole again and finally into the hole. Fundamentals are again and again the key! Jesus died and rose again to forgive us by grace alone, through faith alone—found in Scripture alone in Christ alone! These are the essentials of our faith!

**“So that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.** On Judgment Day everyone—everywhere—even all the dead—raised from their graves everywhere will bow down before Jesus and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord of all! In the meantime—we can confess Jesus all the time. We confess Jesus when we invite a friend or

relative or co-worker or neighbor to come to church with us – to hear God’s Word and to pray the Lord’s Prayer and to receive the benediction – the blessing! We confess Jesus when we say and do things to point to Jesus in our day to day life. I of course carry my cell-phone with me most of the time. There are of course all kinds of ring-tones. I know someone – her phone plays, “Our God is an awesome God...” Everytime you hear that – you have to know the person who answers that phone loves Jesus. My phone went off the other day at UW in Madison as I was waiting for the elevator in the cardiac care department. My phone plays a Gospel choir singing, “Oh happy day – Oh happy day – when Jesus washed – when Jesus washed – when Jesus washed – washed my sins away – oh, happy day!” Sometimes I hesitate to answer right away so I can hear them say, “He taught me how – to walk – night and day---night and day! Oh, happy day...” My phone rang and a very nice person sitting in the waiting room said, “I like that song!” I said, “Me, too – and I like Jesus’ sheep painted on the back of my phone!” Now there was somebody who loved Jesus! There are all kinds of opportunities to mention Jesus. We need to watch for them – we need to set them up! When you go to *The Fireside* to see Newsies – and you sit around a big table on a Thursday night – and pray – “Come Lord Jesus...*not out-loud – loudly* – but not “*pray in your head!*” And when you get to the end and now I just have to say, “Thank you, Jesus!” And signal a touchdown! People just might notice – and be encouraged to pray out loud to Jesus, too! And when you go out for donuts this morning – and see someone you don’t immediately recognize – you can say – “Good morning! I’m happy to meet you!” I can’t wait to come to church Maundy Thursday – like Passover and Good Friday – and then again Easter Sunday to one more time say from my ♥-**Thank you, Jesus!** Amen!

To God alone all glory!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rev. Anthony E. Schutt". The signature is written in black ink on a light blue background.