

March 24, 2024
Palm/Passion Sunday



8470 Landen Drive Maineville, Ohio

*At Abiding Word
We gather around the Word (worship)
We grow in the Word (education)
And we share the Word with the world (outreach).*



Abiding Word Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wisconsin Synod
513.677.9357 abidingword.com

Pastor -Troy Jacobs 937.503.3333 welstroyjacobs@yahoo.com

Welcome!

To all who have gathered here this morning we welcome you in the name of Christ our Lord. Through him we have access to God in boldness and confidence. (Ephesians 3:12) Join us after the service for coffee. Also join us for Sunday School at 10:45 and Bible Study at 11:00 am.

HOLY COMMUNION

Our worship service is open to all. The forgiveness received in the Lord's Supper is proclaimed to all throughout the service. However, the Bible teaches that the Lord's Supper is to be received by those who have been instructed about its meaning and the unity it expresses.

*For this reason, we ask that guests speak with the Pastor
before partaking of the Holy Supper.*

As God's people arrive at the Sixth Sunday in Lent, their attention is drawn to two sets of related yet contrasting events. The first events are those that took place on the Sunday before Jesus died. On that day, Jesus rode triumphantly into Jerusalem on a donkey as the crowds covered the road with palm branches and shouted "Hosanna!" Just as the crowds surrounding Jesus on that first Palm Sunday processed into Jerusalem waving palms and singing Jesus's praises, so God's people today process into the church sanctuary waving palms and singing Jesus's praises. Such a procession is a meaningful commemoration and celebration of our Savior's triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

But the events of that first Palm Sunday are not the only events that grab the worshiper's attention on this day. Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem had a purpose far beyond receiving the praise of those who accompanied him. As we sing in one of our Palm Sunday hymns, "Ride on, ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die" (CW 411). On the day on which the people of Israel selected their lambs for the upcoming Passover, Jesus entered Jerusalem as God's chosen Passover Lamb. In a matter of days, he would pour out his blood to rescue the world from its slavery to sin. Our Lord's upcoming passion also demands our attention on this day, for it was to suffer and die that he rode into Jerusalem on that donkey.

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GREETING

Dear friends in Christ, during the weeks of Lent we have been preparing to commemorate our Lord's suffering, death, and resurrection. Today we come together to begin the solemn journey of Holy Week. Christ entered in triumph into his own city to complete his work as our Savior and to gain for us the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. We follow him in faith and praise him with joy.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

READING

MARK 11:1–10

¹As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, ²saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.' "

⁴They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, ⁵some people standing there asked, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" ⁶They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. ⁷When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. ⁹Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted,

"Hosanna!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

¹⁰"Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!"

"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

SERMON

The Word

PRAYER

Let us pray.

God our Father, we remember how Jesus entered Jerusalem and was welcomed as a king by those who shouted “Hosanna” and spread their clothing and palm branches in his path. Accept our praise and listen to our prayers as we rejoice in our triumphant King, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

Be seated

THE PASSION HISTORY ACCORDING TO ST. MARK

READING

MARK 14:1–11

¹Now the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were scheming to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. ²“But not during the festival,” they said, “or the people may riot.”

³While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.

⁴Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, “Why this waste of perfume? ⁵It could have been sold for more than a year’s wages and the money given to the poor.” And they rebuked her harshly.

⁶“Leave her alone,” said Jesus. “Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. ⁷The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. ⁸She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. ⁹Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”

¹⁰Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. ¹¹They were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money. So he watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

READING

MARK 14:12–26

¹²On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus’ disciples asked him, “Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?”

¹³So he sent two of his disciples, telling them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. ¹⁴Say to the owner of the house he enters, ‘The Teacher asks: Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ ¹⁵He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.”

¹⁶The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

¹⁷When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. ¹⁸While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me.”

¹⁹They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, “Surely you don’t mean me?”

²⁰“It is one of the Twelve,” he replied, “one who dips bread into the bowl with me.

²¹The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.”

²²While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take it; this is my body.”

²³Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

²⁴“This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,” he said to them.

²⁵“Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

²⁶When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

READING

MARK 14:27–31

²⁷“You will all fall away,” Jesus told them, “for it is written:

“ ‘I will strike the shepherd,
and the sheep will be scattered.’

²⁸But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.”

²⁹Peter declared, “Even if all fall away, I will not.”

³⁰“Truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “today—yes, tonight—before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown me three times.”

³¹But Peter insisted emphatically, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the others said the same.

<i>HYMN: SWEET THE MOMENTS, RICH IN BLESSING</i>

400

READING

MARK 14:32–42

³²They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” ³³He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. ³⁴“My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,” he said to them. “Stay here and keep watch.”

³⁵Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. ³⁶“Abba, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

³⁷Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Simon,” he said to Peter, “are you asleep? Couldn’t you keep watch for one hour?” ³⁸Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

³⁹Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. ⁴⁰When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him.

⁴¹Returning the third time, he said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners.

⁴²Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!”

READING

MARK 14:43–52

⁴³Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders.

⁴⁴Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.” ⁴⁵Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him. ⁴⁶The men seized Jesus and arrested him. ⁴⁷Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

⁴⁸“Am I leading a rebellion,” said Jesus, “that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me?” ⁴⁹Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.” ⁵⁰Then everyone deserted him and fled.

⁵¹A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, ⁵²he fled naked, leaving his garment behind.

READING

MARK 14:53–65

⁵³They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law came together. ⁵⁴Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.

⁵⁵The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. ⁵⁶Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree.

⁵⁷Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: ⁵⁸“We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands.’” ⁵⁹Yet even then their testimony did not agree.

⁶⁰Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?” ⁶¹But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.

Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”

⁶²“I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

⁶³The high priest tore his clothes. “Why do we need any more witnesses?” he asked. ⁶⁴“You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?”

They all condemned him as worthy of death. ⁶⁵Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, “Prophesy!” And the guards took him and beat him.

<i>HYMN: HE STOOD BEFORE THE COURT</i>

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READING

MARK 14:66–72

⁶⁶While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. ⁶⁷When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him.

“You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus,” she said.

⁶⁸But he denied it. “I don’t know or understand what you’re talking about,” he said, and went out into the entryway.

⁶⁹When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, “This fellow is one of them.” ⁷⁰Again he denied it.

After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, “Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.”

⁷¹He began to call down curses, and he swore to them, “I don’t know this man you’re talking about.”

⁷²Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

READING

MARK 15:1–15

¹Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate.

²“Are you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate.

“You have said so,” Jesus replied.

³The chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴So again Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of.”

⁵But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.

⁶Now it was the custom at the festival to release a prisoner whom the people requested. ⁷A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. ⁸The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

⁹“Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate, ¹⁰knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. ¹¹But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead.

¹²“What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them.

¹³“Crucify him!” they shouted.

¹⁴“Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!”

¹⁵Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

READING**MARK 15:16–32**

¹⁶The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. ¹⁷They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. ¹⁸And they began to call out to him, “Hail, king of the Jews!” ¹⁹Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. ²⁰And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

²¹A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. ²²They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”). ²³Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

²⁵It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶The written notice of the charge against him read: The King of the Jews.

²⁷They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰come down from the cross and save yourself!” ³¹In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! ³²Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.” Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

<i>HYMN: IN THE HOUR OF TRIAL</i>
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READING**MARK 15:33–41**

³³At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).

³⁵When some of those standing near heard this, they said, “Listen, he’s calling Elijah.”

³⁶Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to take him down,” he said.

³⁷With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

³⁸The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!”

⁴⁰Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. ⁴¹In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.

READING**MARK 15:42–47**

⁴²It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, ⁴³Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus’ body.

⁴⁴Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. ⁴⁵When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. ⁴⁷Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.

<i>HYMN: ALAS! AND DID MY SAVIOR BLEED</i>

410

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

O God, heavenly Father, into your presence we come with thanksgiving and joy. In this holy hour we praise you for sending Jesus Christ, your Son, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame. Grant that as we look to him in faith we may by his example be neither weary in well-doing, nor faint in heart; but rather remind us that just as we partake of his suffering in this life, so also will we partake of his victorious resurrection in the life to come.

O Lord, grant to your Church strength in purpose in your holy service that she may seek with willing hearts the building of your kingdom. Put the song of salvation on our lips and clothe us with the garments of praise that with joy we may declare: "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest."

We pray for all who are in sickness, pain, anxiety, fear of death or sorrow. Be with them when they pass through the waters of trouble. Let them trust in you for you will deliver them.

Special prayers of thanksgiving or intercession may be spoken here

Now unto you, O God, who are able to keep us from falling and to present us faultless before the presence of your glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God, our Savior, be glory and honor, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE OFFERTORY

Sung to the tune of *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

**C: What language shall I borrow To thank you, dearest Friend,
For all Your dying sorrow, Your pity without end?
Oh, make me Yours forever; And should I fainting prove,
Lord, let me never, never Forsake your dying love!**

THE PREFACE

Sung to the tune of *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

**M: The Lord is with His people; The Lord God be with you.
C: The Lord is with His servants; The Lord be with you, too.
M: Your grateful hearts now raise Him
C: To God we lift them high.
 'Tis right to thank and praise Him Who to his world draws nigh**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

**M: Always and everywhere it is right to give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father,
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who gave His life on the cross for us that, freed
from the power of sin and death, we might have eternal joy in Your presence,
renewed in faith and life. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of
heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:**

THE SANCTUS

Sung to the tune of *Blessed Jesus, at Your Word*

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, Heav'n and earth proclaim the story
Of Your majesty adored, Of your kingdom, pow'r, and glory.
With hosannas now we meet You; With our palms and praises greet You:**

**Hail! Hosanna! Blest is He Who in God's own name draws near us!
Hail! Hosanna! Blest are we Since we have God's love to cheer us:
Blood outpoured and body broken Of eternal love the token.**

THE CONSECRATION

THE AGNUS DEI

Sung to the tune of *O Dearest Jesus*

**C: Jesus, the Lamb of God, Have mercy on us!
Jesus, who bore our sins, Have mercy on us!
Jesus, Redeemer of the world, Have mercy!
Give us Your peace, Lord!**

THE DISTRIBUTION

THE NUNC DIMMITIS

Sung to the tune of *Our Father, by Whose Name*

**C: In peace, Lord, at Your Word, Now let Your servant go;
For I have seen and heard What all the earth must know:
Salvation for the world is here!
And Israel's Light shines bright and clear
Upon the nations far and near.**

**Eternal praise and fame Be to our God alone!
We proudly bear His name, Proclaim what he has done.
For our redemption, full and free,
To Father, Son, and Spirit be
All praise and thanks eternally!**

Closing Prayer

Psalm 22

M: Lord Jesus, because your hands and feet were pierced for us, because you were surrounded by taunting enemies, and because you were abandoned even by your heavenly Father, we are rescued from the lion's mouth. Be with us when we must face our own crosses, and instill in us the confidence to say, "My Savior has won the victory for me."

C: Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

Sung to the tune of *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

**M: The good Lord bless and keep you, Lift up His shining face,
With favor look upon you And grant eternal peace.**

**C: To Father, Son, and Spirit, Most gracious One-in-Three,
Be glory, praise, and blessing Now and eternally!**

Acknowledgments

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After the Worship Service Next Sunday

MARK 14:1-26

1. How did many of the guests and disciples respond to this anointing? Contrast the insight the woman had into why Jesus came to this earth with the insight the disciples had at this time.
2. While the woman was confessing her faith in Jesus' sacrifice for her, what was one of Jesus' disciples doing?
3. Verses 12-16 teach us how the Lord takes care of the needs we have as we go about doing his work. What comfort does this give us as we serve the Lord?
4. What unpleasant task did Jesus have to do before he could share his body and blood with his faithful believers?
5. Against the backdrop of the greatest betrayal of all time comes the greatest act of giving of all time. Look at these phrases and words. What do they tell you about the Lord's Supper?
 - "took bread"/ "took the cup" "gave it to his disciples" "my body"/ "my blood"
 - "the covenant" "poured out"

MARK 14:27-72

1. What tremendous comfort was there in Jesus' words "I will go ahead of you into Galilee"?
2. How did Jesus succeed in the Garden of Gethsemane?
3. How did the disciples fail Jesus in Gethsemane?
4. How did the disciples fail when Jesus was arrested?
5. How successful was the Sanhedrin's evidence against Jesus? How did Jesus help them along?
6. How did Peter fulfill Jesus' prophecy recorded in verses 27-31? What motivated him to deny Jesus? What was it that brought Peter to his senses?
7. Jesus said he would teach his disciples to be fishers of men. What do you think the disciples learned from how they treated Jesus during the last hours of his life?

MARK 15:1-32

1. The Jews had condemned Jesus because he claimed to be the Son of God. That answer "rang their bell." Mark records only one short answer to a single question Pilate asked Jesus. What was that answer? Why did this ring Pilate's bell?
2. Why would Pilate offer to release a man with Barabbas' reputation? And what motivated the crowd to choose him over Jesus for a Passover release?
3. Why did the soldiers abuse Jesus? See Acts 3:13-17.
4. Why did Jesus first refuse the wine offered to him before being nailed to the cross and then later accept the wine after he said, "I thirst"?
6. Jesus died for the sins of the world. What were people doing while he was dying for them?

MARK 15:33-47

1. The physical suffering Jesus endured was horrible. But the spiritual suffering he endured was even worse. Explain that thought on the basis of verse 34.
2. The disciples had deserted Jesus. No one was there to explain what was happening or to testify to the truth. Yet God had his witnesses. Explain the witness of the following:
 - the sun the curtain in the temple the centurion
3. When Jesus died, he gave a loud cry. From your knowledge of the nature of crucifixion, explain why this was so remarkable. What does this show us about Jesus' death?
4. Who alone stayed near Jesus in his final hours?
5. Read Isaiah 53:9. How was this prophecy fulfilled at Jesus' burial?
6. We are repeatedly confronted by people, and more than a few Christians among them, who refuse to take sin seriously. How might this study help them begin to take sin seriously and finally come to appreciate the message of forgiveness in Jesus Christ?