



The Messenger

International Lutheran Church

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A NOTE FROM PASTOR CARL

OUR JOURNEY IN JESUS – THE SEED THAT BEARS MUCH FRUIT!

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit” (John 12:24). While we may struggle to understand the purpose of some life events, especially those that involve pain and loss, Jesus’ journey to the cross reveals the truth of God’s Word. He is the seed, the wheat that bears much fruit! Our *Journey in Jesus* is not a waste but produces in and through us a harvest of Hosannas and a song of praise.

Today’s Gospel lesson from John 12 takes us on Jesus’ final journey into Jerusalem. As He enters into the Holy City riding on the foal of a donkey, the euphoric and optimistic calls of “Hosanna! Hosanna to the King!” ring out to all. The excitement is palpable and not easily captured in an online format. Even more difficult to grasp though is how this could all quickly shift in a matter of days to angry shouts of “Crucify him! Crucify him! We have no king but Caesar!” The deflating experience is tangible as we see a shift from cloaks and palms strewn his way to scourging, mocking and crucifixion. Yet, Jesus goes purposefully and with passion. Each step is precious. Where we might see waste and futility, He declares fulfillment. This is the very purpose for which He came. This is the hour of His glory. This is the very point of His journey!

Spring is coming. It is in the air. Our family has been enjoying our first spring here in Korea. We have been taking photos of the beautiful flowers and flowering trees in the church yard. We have even gotten outside in the church garden to dig in the ground and get it ready to plant. As you know I am from Iowa. While I didn’t grow up on a farm, I did spend many a spring, summer and fall day in our family garden. Potatoes are planted on Good Friday; other seeds a little later. Jesus refers to this amazing gift of God, the mechanism that He created for sustaining our lives: planting and harvest. “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit” (John 12:24). The truth is that what could be seen as “gold,” the very grain you mill to make bread, the farmer buries in the ground. The seed is sown in faith, hope and purpose

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 a.m. Bible class
(to be available online livestream)

10:00 a.m. Worship Service
(to be available online prerecorded)

THIS WEEK

Friday, 4/10 Good Friday Service
(to be available online prerecorded)

of producing a crop, a harvest, an abundant and overflowing yield. Yes, Jesus says that unless the wheat is buried it will not produce anything. To be put into the ground is the only way. His life would necessarily be sown onto the cross so that your life and mine might spring forth as a new shoot, new growth. Jesus, the Only Son of God, would be rejected by the Father so that we would be welcomed as His very own children. His journey is our journey! And our journey finds purpose and redemption in His.

Yes, this week we will be going to the cross. In our baptism, we journey in Jesus to that point of no return. In His Word, we walk “in Him” to His betrayal, trial, crucifixion, death, burial and ultimately His resurrection on the third day. Each step is precious and necessary. Similarly, each step in our lives is precious and necessary in God’s hands to mold and shape us into His vessels for noble purposes. This is the very hour in which His glory is revealed in and through our lives. These difficult days are not a waste but produce in us a harvest that we cannot yet envision. His death and resurrection show us that we are precious in His sight. The “fruit” of His forgiveness that He creates in us is far greater than the pain and loss that we endure along the way.

As we *Journey in Jesus* and walk with Him all the way, we pray that God would produce in and through our lives a song of Hosanna, a trumpet of His forgiveness in our lives. As we pray that God would heal the nations and put an end to this pandemic, we ask that He sow the seed of His life-giving Word into our lives and the lives of those that God brings into our journey as we entrust to Him the produce and result that He longs for in and through us.

Pastor Carl

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

HELP ILC SERVE OUR COMMUNITY

Though we are not meeting in person, church operations still continue and to that end we encourage you to make use of offering your tithes and gifts via online giving. Giving in this way will be recorded for your personal end-of-year giving statement.

If you are unable or do not wish to give electronically, you may hold your offerings until we resume our normal worship schedule.

Thank you for your role in keeping ILC's ministry ongoing.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ILC EASTER ONLINE FELLOWSHIP TIME

On Easter Sunday, ILC will host a virtual 'coffee hour' where we can connect online for an Easter greeting and some 'social distancing' fellowship. *ALSO: We are expecting some special guests, so please join in for this new experience!*

Further details will be sent out prior to Easter Sunday.

SAY HELLO TO YOUR FRIENDS!

Are you interested in recording a short video greeting to the congregation? Please let us know at seoulilc.volunteer@gmail.com.

ONLINE GAME NIGHT - COMING SOON

Ever played *Skribbl.io*? Most haven't, but we plan to try! On Friday, April 17th, ILC is planning its first ever virtual Game Night. More details to follow.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Since our services have temporarily migrated to a virtual format, we will not be listing worship assistants here. However, if you are interested in serving as a worship volunteer for when we resume our normal schedule, please write to seoulilc.volunteer@gmail.com. Thank you!

BUDGET MATTERS AT ILC

YTD (through 02/28/20) OFFERINGS

\$87,614.20 (₩101,972,584)

YTD (4/1/19-3/30/20) BUDGET

\$103,230 (₩120,147,532)



READINGS

Apr 5: Palm Sunday

OT	Isaiah 50:4-9a
NT	Philippians 2:5-11
Gospel	John 12:12-36

Apr 10: Good Friday

Gospel	John 18:1-19:42
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Apr 12: Easter Sunday

OT	Exodus 14:10-15:1
NT	1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Gospel	John 20:1-18