

**Palm Sunday**    March 29, 2026

Trinity Lutheran, Alamogordo

### **Philippians 2:5-11**

**<sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in Heaven and on Earth and under the Earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

### **In the Name of Jesus.**

In Heaven, every tongue will confess Jesus Christ as Lord. The holy angels and archangels of Heaven, those saints around the heavenly Throne, all confessing Jesus Christ, Lord.

All those who have preceded us and who are around the heavenly Throne—Job, who suffered so greatly here on Earth, Moses, who murdered the Egyptian, Jacob, who lied to steal his brothers inheritance, Peter, who denied Jesus more than once, the demon-possessed man from whom the Lord cast out the Legion, the man with leprosy whom Jesus made healthy, Zacchaeus at whose house Jesus ate—they all stand at the heavenly throne, all of them having been justified by the voice of the Son of God, forgiven of all sin, and clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

They all, as with one voice, confess Jesus Christ as Lord.

All those with us now on Earth—our brothers and sisters in Christ who are imprisoned for the faith in China, our brothers and sisters being persecuted by Muslims in Africa, our fellow saints who are afflicted by temptations of alcoholism, or of sexual lust, our fellow saints burdened with shame or living in loneliness, all those elsewhere who have been baptized into the holy Name and gathered to the Lord's Table, all of us justified by the voice of the Son of God, forgiven of all sin, and clothed in the righteousness of Christ, all of us, as with one voice, confess Jesus Christ as Lord.

But not only on Earth those who belong to Christ, also those who reject Christ, who bow down to manmade gods, who refuse his forgiveness, thinking to, instead, justify themselves, those who claim there is no day of creation by God and thus we need not fear a day of judgment by God, they will all, on the Last Day, confess Jesus Christ as Lord.

Not in faith will they confess his holy Name, not in joy and gratitude, but only in necessary recognition of what is, indeed, the established fact on the last day that Jesus Christ reigns as Lord over all.

But not only those on Earth, but also those under the Earth, those in the realm of Hell. The devil and his evil angels, but also those people who have died in rejection of the gifts of Christ, they will confess Jesus Christ as Lord. Not in joyful faith, not in thankfulness, but rather in recognition of the established fact that Jesus Christ is Lord, he has shed the blood to redeem all sinners, and in that, he has established Lordship, robbing the demons of their power to hold sinners under condemnation.

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Philippians 2:9:

**Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in Heaven and on Earth and under the Earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

God the Father has highly exalted his Son. We will see this fact with our own eyes on the Last Day, at the resurrection. But we know it now by faith.

We will see it then with our eyes, we know it now by the Word.

For the reason God the Father has exalted his Son is not because his Son is all-powerful and omniscient—though he is, but because his Son became human, and, becoming human, he then emptied himself out, taking the form of a servant, and as this servant, he humbled himself by becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross.

That is, the reason God the Father has highly exalted his Son is of *not* his Son's power and might—for his Son, as True God, has always had all power and might—but, rather, the Father has highly exalted his Son specifically because his Son willingly gave himself over to humiliation and death on the cross.

That is, God the Father has highly exalted his Son because his Son has redeemed the sinner.

His Son has justified you and me. His Son, who deserves no humiliation, gave himself to be humiliated so that those who deserve no exaltation, that is, you and me and every sinner, may be exalted.

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Seeing one sinner given the gift of repentance and forgiveness, the angels in Heaven rejoice, confessing Jesus Christ as Lord.

Seeing one sinner given the gift of repentance and forgiveness, the whole church on Earth sings hymns of joy, confessing Jesus Christ as Lord.

Seeing one sinner on Earth given the gift of repentance and forgiveness, the *unholy* angels in Hell, the demons, tremble, bowing down, being forced to confess that they have been stripped of their power, they are not our masters, but Jesus Christ is Lord.

And now we rejoice. For God the Son, who reigns in Heaven, exalted by the Father, is, along with us, fully human. And, fully human like us, but with no sin of his own, he calls us his brothers and sisters.

He who is without sin has redeemed us from our sin. And he now gathers his Church on Earth to his Name by speaking to us his Word of promise every time he gathers us to his Table, saying to us:

*Take and eat, this is my Body. Take and drink, this is my blood for the forgiveness of your sins.*

At his Gospel, at his Word of promise, you are clean, you are exalted.

**In the Name of Jesus.**