

Monday of Holy Week – Prayer for the Week (Palm Sunday)

Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

I sometimes wonder if people pay enough attention to these prayers we say on Sunday. If they did, would they still say “Amen” so readily? The prayer notes that God sent his Son, our Savior Jesus, to take up our flesh and to suffer death on a cross. So far, this sounds good. But read that next sentence carefully. We would like God to grant us to follow Jesus’ example of humility and patience.

Are you sure you want to pray that prayer? Do you want God to say “Yes” to that request? I have observed that when people are facing difficulties in life their ability to live a life worthy of the Gospel is weakened. Christ is the measure of such a life – a life of humility and patience, total subjection and obedience to the Father, and total servanthood. This is the life worthy of the Gospel! We are called to this life in Christ. We are called to a life of humility and patience with one another in the midst of the difficulties of life. Life has always been a battle. Our family is not the enemy, other people are not the enemy, society is not the enemy, and the government is not the enemy. The Evil One is the enemy. Jesus defeated our Enemy by His humble and patient obedience to His Father. You are humble, patient, partakers of His resurrection victory.

We pray for patience in this prayer. Patience is necessary when bearing difficult things. I think I would rather pray that God keeps the difficult things away from me. That is not a bad prayer, Jesus prayed it in the Garden of Gethsemane, but it is not this prayer. This week, as we come to contemplate the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we pray not that difficult things be kept far from us, but that God give us the humility and patience of Jesus when such things draw near.

Pray this prayer. God answers prayer.

God be with you until we meet again. In Jesus love and mercy, Pastor Wulf