**Tenth Sunday after Trinity**

**Luke 19:41-48**

***Know What Makes for Your Peace***

The Collect of the Day sums up the work of God: He declares His almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity. It calls to mind those words of the Lord through the Prophet Isaiah: “A bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench.” (Is 42.3 )His almighty power is shown in binding up the bruised reed and fanning into flame the smoking flax. Anyone can destroy, but only God can make whole. He knows the things that make for your peace, and He comes to deliver them to you, to set you on the way of His commandments, to make you a partaker of His heavenly treasure. He does this, in part, by setting before you the warning to Jerusalem as well as what befell them, all because they rejected Jesus Christ, sent by God to bring them perfect peace. Remember what Paul said to the Corinthians in last week’s Epistle: These things were written for your instruction.

Today’s Gospel is part of St. Luke’s record of Palm Sunday. Immediately before, Jesus and the Pharisees had one of their last fights. Jesus was riding into Jerusalem on the donkey and His disciples Declared Jesus to be God using the words of Psalm 118: “Blessed is the King who comes in the Name of the Lord.” On the surface it sounds like a simple ascription of praise, but the Pharisees were the best students of Holy Scripture. They knew the greater context of this verse. So, what does the Psalm say that made the Pharisees so angry? It’s almost impossible to choose just a few verses because all of this Psalm is about the crucifixion of Jesus for our salvation and His status as true God.But let’s hear just a few of the verses around the one the disciples cried at the Triumphal entry:

22 The stone *which* the builders rejected

Has become the chief cornerstone.

25 Save now, I pray, O Lord;

O Lord, I pray, send now prosperity.

26 Blessed *is* he who comes in the name of the Lord!

We have blessed you from the house of the Lord.

27 God *is* the Lord,

And He has given us light;

Bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar.

28 You *are* my God, and I will praise You;

*You are* my God, I will exalt You.

29 Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for *He is* good!

For His mercy *endures* forever.

What did the Disciples confess? Nothing false, just something unpopular. The Pharisees knew it but vehemently fought against: Jesus is God in the flesh, come to be bound to the altar of the cross, to be the sacrifice that glorifies God and restores peace between God and man, the ultimate sacrifice to take away the sin of the world. If only they had not fought this knowledge, if only they had not rejected this gracious visitation of God! But because they refused to acknowledge that the fullness of time had come, refused to receive God among them, the wrath of God, came upon them in the destruction brought by Rome in the destruction of Jerusalem in the year 70. It grieves God to permit this punishment for sin, but it comes. Jesus even presented them more opportunity for repentance when He gave the object lesson of clearing the Temple of its salesmen and moneychangers, but they simply chose to be angry and not repentant. The destruction by Rome and the sickening means used by Rome to destroy not only the city but to break the spirit of man teaches us that the time of God’s grace does end. It will come to an end for us as well. Right now God permits His grace to be rejected, His name to be blasphemed and He appears powerless. But He is allowing the world, allowing you time to repent of your false gods, your sin. But once the last baby has been Baptized, the last person has been converted by Word and Spirit, that time of grace will end, and it will make the Destruction of Jerusalem look like a carnival. So, repent now while we live in this season of grace.

Repentance is a painful—but loving—work of God begun in you by the Holy Spirit given you at your Baptism. Repentance is confessing sin and asking for God’s assistance to do better. When you repent God graciously visits you, grants you His salvation, and cleanses the temple of your heart. He drives from it all those earthly things that clutter it, those deeds of the flesh that pollute. He drives out Satan and his unclean spirits to make room for the Holy Spirit. Purified and filled by the Lord and Giver of Life the things that make for your peace are revealed to you. You are driven by the Holy Spirit to do good works, but most importantly to come to this place where you are continually cleansed and forgiven, continually fed and strengthened, continually driven closer and closer to everlasting life by the Triune God.

Though you have sinned and gone astray, though you have multiplied transgression, God declares His almighty power not in giving you the destruction you deserve, but in showing mercy and pity. His Son has suffered for you and has drowned your sin in the deepest sea of His Blood. These things make for your peace. On this day of visitation Jesus comes to you in the Holy Communion to reassure you of your salvation and to draw you to Himself, to shield you under the shelter of His wing forever.