

BELIEVE

**The Holy Catholic Church.
The Communion of Saints.**
Matthew 16:13-23 by Alf Halvorson

This is the thirteenth message in our Apostles' Creed Series for our Lenten Season. We are finally at Palm Sunday and by extension entering the holiest of weeks. Palm Sunday is also called Passion Sunday, because it marks the move of Jesus into Jerusalem and his commitment to sacrifice his sinless life on the cross for the sins of the world--your sins and my sins. It is a humbling time; a profound time; and an especially trying time this year because of the COVID-19 Outbreak. We are being taught, now perhaps more than ever, that "me and God" is not God's plan and design for us. We yearn for fellowship with God that Christ makes possible; as well as community with others through Christ's sacrificial love. The holy catholic church and the communion of the saints are so crucial in that equation.

1. What is your normal personal or family's practice during Holy Week & Easter? How is that being affected by the Shelter-in-Place Orders due to the Coronavirus outbreak? What is lost? Are there any new opportunities this year because of your changed lifestyle?
2. When I write, "holy catholic church," what do you think of because of those words? Have you had questions about that phrase in the Creed? Was I able to address them adequately in my sermon?

And what do you think of when I write, "communion of the saints?"

3. The Church is both the bride of Christ and also a very human institution. How do you reconcile the very good and the very bad that can come through the Church?
4. Read Matthew 16:13-23. Jesus is having a retreat with his closest followers up in the north of Palestine at the base of Mt. Herman. He wants to do his final preparations with the disciples before his push to Jerusalem and his death there. What is the first question Jesus asks the disciples and what is their answer? (vss. 13-14) And what is his second question and what is Peter's answer? How do they build on each other?
5. Jesus responds to Peter's answer with profound words in verses 17-20. What are your key takeaways from this section?

In your mind, but also based on the text, what "rock" does Jesus say the church is built upon? How do Roman Catholics and Protestants answer this question differently?

6. Verses 21-23 point to Jesus' attempt to explain to the disciples his next steps? Why do you think Peter has such a hard time with Jesus' words? How could Peter get his answer so right in verse 16 but so wrong in verse 22? How are you like Peter? Why are Good Friday and Easter Sunday necessary for Peter and for you and for me? Why is our accepting His death and Resurrection by faith necessary for us to have communion with God and others?





MDPC
Memorial Drive
Presbyterian Church

BELIEVE

Palm Sunday, April 5 • 8:30 Online Worship

Welcome • Announcements • Call to Worship	Beth Case
Songs of Praise <i>I'm Gonna Sing Sing Sing</i> <i>When the Saints Go Marching</i> <i>Hosanna</i>	Barny Robertson Paul Balouche
Prayer of Confession & Assurance	Rachel Poysky
Song of Response <i>In Christ Alone</i>	arr. Getty
Moment of Prayer	Beth Case
Song of Preparation <i>Graves into Gardens</i>	Steven Furtick
Message The Holy Catholic Church & The Communion of Saints Matthew 16:13-23	Alf Halvorson
Song of Preparation <i>Church's One Foundation/Doxology</i>	arr. Gómez
The Apostles' Creed	Alf Halvorson
Sharing Our Gifts	give.mdpc.org



BELIEVE

Palm Sunday, April 5 • 9:45 Online Worship

Songs of Praise	<i>I'm Gonna Sing, Sing, Sing</i> <i>When the Saints Go Marching</i> <i>Hosanna</i>	Barny Robertson Trad. Paul Balouche
Greeting the Saints		
Reprise	<i>Hosanna</i>	
Kids' Moment		Keri Mosk
Moment of Confession & Assurance		Christyn Knoop
Songs of Response	<i>Graves into Gardens</i>	Steven Furtick
Message	The Holy Catholic Church & The Communion of Saints Matthew 16:13-23	Alf Halvorson
Song of Response	<i>This I Believe</i>	Fielding/Crocker
Moment of Prayer		Christyn Knoop
Song of Response	<i>Great Are You Lord</i>	Leslie Jordan
*The Apostles' Creed		Alf Halvorson
Sharing Our Gifts		give.mdpc.org



BELIEVE

Palm Sunday, April 5 • 11:15 Online Worship

Prelude	<i>The Holy City</i>	Stephen Adams (1841-1913)
Welcome • Announcements • Call to Worship		Beth Case
*Hymns of Praise #88	<i>All Glory, Laud, and Honor</i>	Verses 1 & 3
	VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN	
Prayer of Confession and Assurance		Rachel Poysky
Greeting the Saints		Alf Halvorson
Kids' Moment		Keri Mosk
Anthem	<i>Ride On, King Jesus</i>	arr. Moses Hogan (1957-2003)
Pastoral Prayer		Beth Case
Anthem of Preparation	<i>My Eternal King</i>	Jane Marshall (1924-2019)
Message		Alf Halvorson
	The Holy Catholic Church & The Communion of Saints	
	Matthew 16:13-23	
*Hymn of Response #339	<i>Be Thou My Vision</i>	Slane Vs. 1 & 3 SLANE
The Apostles' Creed		Alf Halvorson
Sharing Our Gifts		give.mdpc.org
Postlude	<i>If Thou But Trust in God</i>	arr. Paul Manz (1919-2009)