

## Friends of the Chapel weekly Scripture Study

### Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026

#### Old Testament Reading

##### Isaiah 50:4–9a

##### English Standard Version Scripture Text

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward. 6 I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. 7 But the Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame. 8 He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me. 9 Behold, the Lord GOD helps me; who will declare me guilty?

#### Historical Context

Isaiah 50 is part of the Servant Songs found in the latter portion of Isaiah. These passages portray a faithful servant who suffers yet remains obedient to the LORD. Early Christians understood these texts as foreshadowing the suffering and obedience of Jesus as He moved toward the cross.

#### Verse-by-Verse Exegetical Commentary

Verse 4 – The servant is given a disciplined tongue to sustain the weary with God's word.

Verse 5 – The servant listens obediently and does not rebel against the LORD's calling.

Verse 6 – The servant endures humiliation and suffering without turning away.

Verses 7–8 – Confidence in God's vindication gives the servant courage to endure opposition.

Verse 9a – The servant trusts that the LORD will ultimately justify him.

#### Theological Themes

- Obedience in suffering
- The faithful servant of the LORD

- Trust in God's vindication
- Strength through disciplined listening to God

## Epistle Reading

### Philippians 2:5–11

#### English Standard Version Scripture Text

<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, <sup>8</sup> 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 <sup>e</sup>Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

#### Historical Context

In Philippians 2, Paul encourages believers to live in humility and unity. He illustrates this calling through what many scholars believe is an early Christian hymn describing Christ's humility, suffering, and ultimate exaltation.

#### Verse-by-Verse Exegetical Commentary

Verse 5 – Believers are called to adopt the mindset of Christ.

Verses 6–7 – Though fully divine, Christ humbles Himself and takes the form of a servant.

Verse 8 – Christ's obedience leads to death on a cross, the ultimate act of humility.

Verses 9–10 – God exalts Christ and gives Him the name above every name.

Verse 11 – All creation will ultimately confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

#### Theological Themes

- The humility of Christ
- The incarnation and servanthood
- Obedience leading to exaltation
- The universal lordship of Christ

## Concluding Reflection

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, when Jesus enters Jerusalem knowing that suffering lies ahead. Isaiah's vision of the faithful servant finds fulfillment in Christ's obedience to the Father. Philippians reminds believers that the path of humility ultimately leads to God's vindication. As the Church remembers Christ's journey to the cross, believers are invited to follow His example of humble obedience and trust in God's purposes.

## Thoughts to Consider - 03/29/26

1. Isaiah describes a servant who listens carefully to God and obeys even when facing suffering. Why is listening to God so essential for faithful discipleship?
2. The servant in Isaiah endures rejection and humiliation. How does this prepare us to understand the suffering of Jesus during Holy Week?
3. Philippians teaches that Christ willingly humbled Himself. Why is humility such a central virtue in the Christian life?
4. God ultimately exalts Christ after His suffering. What does this teach about the relationship between humility, suffering, and glory?
5. Palm Sunday celebrates Jesus entering Jerusalem as king, yet He comes in humility. What does this reveal about the nature of Christ's kingdom?