Grace and peace are yours from God our Father and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, amen.

On our final Lenten Sunday and in our preparations for Palm Sunday and Holy Week, we hear the comfort of God’s love and see the fulfillment of His promises of peace and protection. Whenever we gather in Word and Spirit to be fed with the Bread of Life, we open our hearts and minds to our Lord for the sake of understanding what God has done and continues to do in the world around us.

Our Old Testament reading and the Psalm both call for, and wait upon, the Day of the Lord when all things will be made new and when justice will be handed down. Are we ready for God’s Justice and Judgement to be executed upon the earth (and all therein)? If we rely, depend upon, and trust in the Lord with the faith we have been given, then we are not fearful of God’s judgement, but instead, we are led to the green pastures and still waters. However, without the gift of faith and the knowledge of God’s love for us, there is reason to fear because the world will not protect and provide for us as our Heavenly Father does with abundance and compassion.

In our gospel Jesus declares; “Now is the judgement of the world.” The word ‘now’ in Holy Scripture means; immediately, in the present time, without delay. The judgment of the world is about to take place with no one knowing what is about to happen. Furthermore, no one is prepared or has made plans for this day and time. Moreso, there are those in parts of the world who have not heard the name of Jesus… who will also be judged. The judgement that is about to take place is complete, final, and includes everyone.

A voice comes from Heaven, from God the Father immediately before Jesus declares the judgement of the world and people both hear the words and acknowledge the voice. The people also hear Jesus’s response to them and the words of judgement. The day of judgement should not be a surprise to the people of Israel, the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel (among others) have declared the day when God will judge the world and all within. God provided time (plenty of time; generations of time) for His people to prepare themselves… but who knew when the day would come. And, who acted?

When sharing time together in Word and Spirit, we often focus on the Words of Jesus (and rightfully so), but we also often fail to acknowledge the Works of the Spirit that fulfill the very words that are spoken by our Lord. If God declares it, the Holy Spirit will fulfill it. And so my dear friends in Christ, the preparations are indeed completed by the Spirit to ensure we are able to stand before the Lord God Almighty on the day of judgement.

What must be done for us is detailed and documented in the Psalms. Jesus assures us of this when He tells His disciples; “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the **psalms** must be fulfilled.” (Luke 24:44) The Psalms must be fulfilled… and so we hear the Words of Psalm 51 and see the preparations God had made in our lives for the day of judgement.

1Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
  in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

 2Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
  and cleanse me from my sin.

 3For I know my offenses,  
  and my sin is ever before me.

 4Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;  
  so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.

 5Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
  a sinner from my mother’s womb.

 6Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
  and would have me know wisdom deep within.

 7Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
  wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

 8Let me hear joy and gladness;  
  that the body you have broken may rejoice.

 9Hide your face from my sins,  
  and blot out all my wickedness.

 10Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
  and renew a right spirit within me.

 11Cast me not away from your presence,  
  and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

 12Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
  and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

The Word of God is alive and active in the people of God. The Holy Spirit has been fulfilling all prophecy, promise, and prayers for the protection of God’s people, who are loved and cared for eternally. We only need to use our faith to believe all God has said in the context of His care for us.

We are prepared for judgement, which is now a historical event. And inasmuch, we are also prepared for all things to come with the peace that passes all understanding to keep our hearts and minds through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord. Amen.