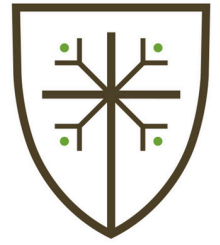


PALM SUNDAY

SERMON NOTES



April 13, 2025

SERMON INFO

TITLE

"All Tied Up"

PREACHER

Rev. Josh Keller

TEXTS

Zechariah 8:9-12

Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 19:28-40

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you have tied up, under your control, that God might be asking of you?
2. What most often keeps us from "untying our colts" in joyful obedience?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

Palm Sunday marks the first day of Holy Week, the week leading up to Easter Sunday. This Sunday, Josh considered two pieces of the Palm Sunday—or Triumphal Entry—gospel story.

Unmistakable Presentation

When Jesus enters Jerusalem, he doesn't do it casually or haphazardly. There is a clear presentation of what this moment is supposed to represent. He gave very specific instructions to his disciples—requesting a colt, the foal of a donkey. Every Jewish person would have known exactly what Jesus's ride was referencing. In our Old Testament reading from Zechariah, written while in exile, we see the prophet looking forward to this very moment: "your king will come mounted on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey."

But this king is not just Israel's redeeming king. This king is going to end war and secure peace from sea to sea—to the ends of the earth. This is a universal king, a cosmic king. Jesus also specifically requests a donkey that no one has ever sat on—an unbroken donkey. Donkeys, even trained ones, are notoriously difficult and stubborn. Yet this one walks meekly under Jesus's control. He is the King of all creation.

There are several different ways we can respond to the kingship of Jesus. The crowd on Palm Sunday was excited. They wanted him to be the political king they had been hoping for. But this momentary excitement fades, and by the end of the week, they are crying for him to be crucified. The Pharisees, on the other hand, are uncomfortable, annoyed with Jesus. To them, he is a teacher, not a king. Why is he letting this "king" worship continue? Often, we also want to relegate Jesus to only teacher and savior and leave the king behind. A king commands, directs, and orders. One group responds with joyful obedience in the gospel passage—the ones who had the colt tied up.

Untying the Colt

Our passage emphasizes six times the colt being tied and untied. It was not insignificant. If something is tied up, it belongs to someone; it is under their control. But when the King came needing what was under their control, all they had to hear was that the Lord had need of it, and they untied it to Jesus's control. Anytime we think of giving up control of something that belongs to us, we can't help but first think, "Can I trust him with it?" If I give up control to Jesus, can I trust him?

Everything we celebrate in Holy Week explains to us the reasons we can trust Jesus, the King. On Maundy Thursday, we see the servant-king. Christ untied himself, refusing to grasp his place of control. On Good Friday, we see the sacrificed king—the one who emptied himself to win you and save you from death. And finally, on Easter, we see the victorious king, under whose kingship is the salvation of the world.

God has given each of us colts in our lives that he asks us to untie—to joyfully surrender to his good will and purpose for the growth of his eternal kingdom.