

Easter 2

Mark 11

Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King

1As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, **2**saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. **3**If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

4This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

5“Say to Daughter Zion,
‘See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’ ” **a**

6The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. **7**They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. **8**A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. **9**The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna **b** to the Son of David!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” **c**

“Hosanna **d** in the highest heaven!”

10When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”

11The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Zechariah 9

9Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!

Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you,
righteous and victorious,
lowly and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Palm branches hold significant symbolism within Palm Sunday and the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem. In ancient times, palm fronds were associated with victory, peace, and eternal life. They were often used to welcome triumphant kings and military leaders as they entered cities after victorious battles or campaigns. This image is particularly fitting for Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem because it highlights his role as a humble yet victorious king who brings peace and salvation.

The people wanted an insurrectionist to topple Rome. **Jesus did come to defeat an enemy, but not the one they had in mind.** Instead, He came to defeat the enemies of sin, death, and the enemy that enslaved every man and woman since Adam and Eve.

None of our lives are perfect or normal and that shouldn't surprise us. The followers of Jesus were surprised when he didn't turn out to be the king they wanted them to be.

Their cries of "Long live the king!" quickly turned to "Crucify him!" and the crown they were ready to place on his head became a crown of thorns.

Palm Sunday is not the end of the story. And it doesn't end on Maundy Thursday. And it doesn't even end on Good Friday. **If we accept Jesus as a humble and lowly king who doesn't rescue us from trouble but who walks with us through it, then we've got a better day waiting for us!**

It is easy to celebrate him when he does what you want him to do or think he should do.

The church will not meet your expectations. How will you respond? I will not meet your expectations; how will you respond? Your spouse doesn't meet your expectations. How do you respond? **Jesus will not always meet your expectations. Jesus will not always give you what you want, but he will always give you what you need.**

Galatians 5

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. **24** Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. **25** Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.