

Palm Sunday 04/13/25 – Panama Methodist Church

Sermon Title: *“The Road to Redemption” Sermon Series: Part 6 of 7 – “A King For All of Us!” Zechariah 9:9, Psalm 118:25-26, Luke 19:28-40*

(Slides 1-15 will be listed in order throughout this sermon 😊!)

Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Lord Jesus, save us, “save now,” save, we pray!” Welcome brothers and sisters on this day, Palm Sunday, and our official start of this our Holy Week 2025. Nearly two-thousand years ago, Jesus Christ our Lord entered the Holy City, Zion, the city of Jerusalem for the Passover or Pesach holiday. This holiday commemorates the Jews or Israelites liberation from slavery in Egypt under the Pharaoh centuries earlier. With Good Friday coming this Friday, Jesus’ “The Road to Redemption,” on the cross of is coming. This Friday, Jesus will pay the ultimate price for us all. Here is the title of today’s message:

Slide 1 – (“The Road to Redemption – Part 6” – Opening Slide”)



Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, enters Jerusalem this day on a donkey colt, which is a young male donkey, also called a “foal.” Since the Passover or the Pesach holiday in the Jewish faith was a big deal, no doubt people descended upon Jerusalem from all over the Roman Empire. People of great rank and prominence, and everything in between. I can imagine that Pontius Pilate entered Jerusalem on a chariot with gleaming metal armor on. He probably had soldiers and instruments playing. I can imagine that King Herod entered Jerusalem with similar pomp and splendor. You see, on such an important occasion as Passover, some people no doubt liked to make quite an entrance. Jesus Christ, fully God and fully human, made quite an entrance into Jerusalem to. Here is a question for us to consider on this Palm Sunday, the first day of Holy Week:

Slide 2 – (“Why would the Savior of the World ride a donkey? - Question”)

**Why would the
savior of the World
ride a donkey?**

Jesus Christ, God in the flesh could have commanded legions of angels, could have arrived in Jerusalem in a way beyond all recognition. So, the question is, why would Jesus enter Jerusalem for the Passover holiday on a donkey colt, or young male donkey?

There is more than one reason for this, but this day was also prophesied or predicted in the Old Testament or Hebrew Bible. In fact, the Book of Zechariah was written about 470-520 years before Jesus was born. Yet, the Prophet Zechariah predicted what would happen on this day that we now call Palm Sunday hundreds of years before Jesus was even born. If you have your bibles or your bible apps, I invite you to open the Old Testament Book of the Prophet Zechariah, which is almost at the very end of the Old Testament. Zechariah is the second to last book of the Old Testament or Hebrew Bible, with the Book of Prophet of Malachi being the last book in the Old Testament. Then after the Book of Malachi, we have what is called the “Intertestamental Period” or “silent years” before the birth of Christ. This means for about four-hundred years there were no new prophets, no new books of the Old Testament or Hebrew Bible. With all this said, this is the prophecy that Zechariah made about this day about 470-520 years before the birth of Christ:

Slide 3 – (“Zechariah 9:9”, NRSV)

Zechariah 9:9, NRSV

The Coming Ruler of God’s People

**⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.**

So about five-hundred years or more before Jesus rode in on donkey colt, or young male donkey on this day, Zechariah foretold of this day. Jesus’ rode into the shouts of “Hosanna,” and Zechariah 9:9 discusses the rejoicing and shouting of what today would be. Zechariah said that our king comes to us, triumphant and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. I also found this picture on Zechariah 9:9 that I thought was kind of cute. Here it is:

Slide 4 – (“Zechariah 9:9” - Picture)



Why else then, would the savior of the world enter Jerusalem on this day on a donkey colt? Jesus, while fully God and fully human, was modeling humility. Jesus was also showing us, as my sermon title is called this morning, that He is “A King For All of Us!” In fact, if we can turn to in our bibles or bible apps from Zechariah 9:9 to Psalm 118:25-25, we will see yet another prophecy from the Old Testament or Hebrew Bible for this day, of Palm Sunday. This is what Psalm 118:25-26 says:

Slide 5 – (“Psalm 118:25-26 - NRSV”)

Psalm 118:25-26, NRSV

**25 Save us, we beseech you,
O LORD! O LORD, we beseech
you, give us success! 26 Blessed
is the one who comes in the
name of the LORD. We bless you
from the house of the LORD.**

Psalm 118:25-26 is the psalmist crying out for deliverance from God. For God to save them, to send the One of God to save them. This is the cries and shouts that we hear this morning as Jesus enters Jerusalem for the Passover or Pesach. People were not just excited that Jesus entered the Holy City, Zion, or Jerusalem this day, but they were also asking Him to save them. The great King David who Jesus is a descendant of, was a mighty warrior that united Israel, and some wanted Jesus to be King David 2.0. In reality though, Jesus came to conquer our hearts, and eventually the whole Roman Empire would collapse. The love of Christ is the most powerful thing in the world. Where Roman Empire Caesars once sat in Rome, is now the headquarters for the Roman Catholic Church, the world's largest Christian denomination in the world, with 1.4 billion people. Jesus did not come to kill His enemies, instead He came to save His enemies, and us from ourselves.

With those two prophetic scriptures from the Prophet Zechariah, and from Psalm 118, let us read together one of the narratives of what we now call Palm Sunday. The story of Jesus' triumphant entry on this day is in all four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, but today we will look at the version from the gospel of Luke 19:28-40. I invite you to turn one last time in your bibles or bible apps from Psalm 118:25-26, to the gospel of Luke 19:28-40. So, once again, the gospel of Luke 19:28-40. This is what this version of "Jesus' Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem" says:

Slide 6 – ("Luke 19:28-29, NRSV")

Luke 19:28-29, NRSV

Jesus' Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem

²⁸ After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

²⁹ When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples,

Slide 7 – (“Luke 19:30-32, NRSV”)

Luke 19:30-32, NRSV

³⁰ saying, ‘Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, “Why are you untying it?” just say this: “The Lord needs it.”’ ³² So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them.

Slide 8 – (“Luke 19:33-36, NRSV”)

Luke 19:33-36, NRSV

³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, ‘Why are you untying the colt?’ ³⁴ They said, ‘The Lord needs it.’ ³⁵ Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road.

Slide 9 – (“Luke 19:37-38, NRSV”)

Luke 19:37-38, NRSV

³⁷ As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸ saying, ‘Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!’

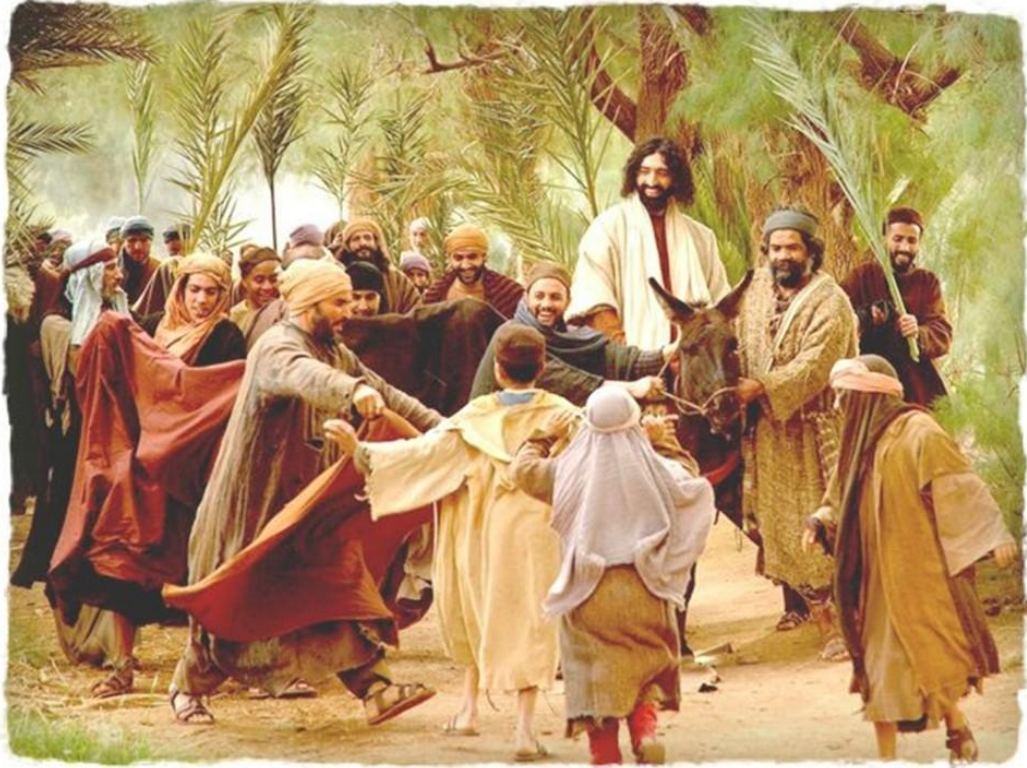
Slide 10 – (“Luke 19:39-40, NRSV”)

Luke 19:39-40, NRSV

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, ‘Teacher, order your disciples to stop.’ ⁴⁰ He answered, ‘I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.’

Here is also a really nice picture that attempts to capture “Jesus’ Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem” on this Palm Sunday:

Slide 11 – (“Palm Sunday” - Picture)



In this picture, you can see the excitement and the fervor of the people for Jesus entering into the city of Jerusalem for the Passover holiday.

With this said, let us go through this morning’s gospel of Luke 19:28-40 lesson together. So, once again, our gospel of Luke 19:28-40 reading begins with Jesus heading up to Jerusalem. When Jesus and his disciples had gotten near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he asked two of His disciples to do something for Him. Specifically, He told these two disciples to go into the village just ahead of where there were at. Jesus told these two disciples that when they enter this village, they will find a young donkey, or a colt that has never been ridden. Jesus said, when they find this colt that had never been ridden,

untie it and bring it to Him. Further, Jesus said if anyone asks these two disciples why they are untying and taking this colt, they are to say to the owners, “The Lord needs it.” These two disciples then headed into the village just ahead and did exactly what Jesus told them to do. As the two disciples were untying and taking the colt, the owners asked these two disciples, “why are you untying the colt?” As instructed, the two disciples told the owners of the colt, “The Lord needs it”. As Jesus said, the owners would agree, there was no push back, and the two disciples took the colt or the young donkey and brought it to Jesus.

When they brought this young donkey or colt back to Jesus, the two disciples first put cloaks on the colt, and then they sat Jesus upon the colt. As Jesus rode along to enter Jerusalem for the Passover holiday, people laid their cloaks on the road, so that the Jesus and the colt that he was on would travel on cloaks and not the ground. This was sort of a ‘red carpet’ treatment, and the colt would walk on cloaks, and not the ground. This was to show love, reference, and respect for Jesus. At this point, Jesus is now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, and as he did, a whole multitude of Jesus’ disciples began to praise God. For Jesus was fulfilling the prophecies of both Zechariah 9:9 and Psalm 118:25-26. These joyful praises of God were raised in a loud voice around all the deeds of power that they had seen from Jesus. Quoting Psalm 118:25-26, all these people all these disciples joyfully shouted, “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the

Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!” Some of the religious leaders or the Pharisees, however, did not like what they were seeing and hearing. As a result, they told Jesus, “teacher,” which is the translation of “rabbi,” “order your disciples to stop.” Basically, the Pharisees were telling Jesus to tell his disciples stop praising Him and celebrating this biblical prophecy coming true. In response, and to end our reading for this morning, Jesus said in reply, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

On this day brothers and sisters, “A King For all of Us!” enters the Holy City, Zion, or Jerusalem for the Passover or Pesach holiday. Passover is a weeklong holiday, which will end with a cross, and an empty tomb on Easter Sunday. In fact, this year the Jewish Passover or Pesach holiday started last night on April 12th, and it ends this coming Sunday April 20th. This is the week of the New Covenant in Jesus’ blood, his death on a cross, and next Sunday his empty tomb. Today though, Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and the Lord or Lords enters the holy city of Jerusalem, like one of us. He fulfills prophecies written centuries earlier, and shows us with his humility, and common entrance into Jerusalem, that he is “A King For all of Us!” Or as television commercials tell us, “He Gets Us.”

To recap a little bit of what we have discussed this morning, about Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem, let us look together at we have discussed thus far:

Slide 12 – (“Application to Our Lives # 1”)

Application to Our Lives # 1

The Triumphal Entry:

- Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey, fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9, which describes a king coming on a donkey.
- The crowds, including Jesus's disciples, acclaim him as "king" and "blessed in the name of the Lord".

Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on this day, this Palm Sunday, fulfilled the prophecies of Zechariah 9:9, and Psalm 118:25-26. As we heard though, the religious leaders, the Pharisees, were not happy about Jesus entering Jerusalem for the Passover in the way that he did.

Slide 13 – (“Application to Our Lives # 2”)

Application to Our Lives # 2

The Triumphal Entry:

- The Pharisees, however, are disturbed by the commotion and urge Jesus to silence his disciples.
- Jesus responds that if his disciples are silenced, even the stones will cry out, emphasizing the inevitable recognition of his kingship.

What Jesus' entry into Jerusalem also foretells and highlights is this:

Slide 14 – (“Application to Our Lives # 3”)

Application to Our Lives # 3

Foreshadowing:

- Jesus weeps over Jerusalem, foretelling its destruction due to the rejection of God's word and the coming of the Messiah.
- This passage highlights the contrast between the joyful entry and the impending suffering and judgment that Jesus will face.

Lastly, what is the significance of Jesus entering Jerusalem on a colt or young donkey this morning? Let us look together:

Slide 15 – (“Application to Our Lives # 4”)

Application to Our Lives # 4

Significance:

- The triumphal entry is a symbolic act, demonstrating Jesus's authority as a king and the beginning of his final journey to Jerusalem.
- It also serves as a reminder that even in the face of opposition and suffering, God's plan will be fulfilled.
- The passage underscores the importance of recognizing Jesus as the Messiah and the need to repent and follow him.

As I call the praise team forward this morning, may we realize on this Palm Sunday, this first day of Holy Week, that Jesus came to become like one of us, and to die for all of us. Jesus entered Jerusalem today in the simplest of ways, to show us all that is “A King For All of Us!” Amen.