

Palm Sunday  
April 14, 2019  
Lincoln Heights Lutheran Church  
**Praise Your Savior-King**

**Luke 19:28–40 (NIV84)**

*After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. <sup>29</sup> As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, <sup>30</sup> “Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ tell him, ‘The Lord needs it.’” <sup>32</sup> Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. <sup>33</sup> As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” <sup>34</sup> They replied, “The Lord needs it.” <sup>35</sup> They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup> As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. <sup>37</sup> When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: <sup>38</sup> “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” <sup>39</sup> Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!” <sup>40</sup> “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”*

Dear Friends in Christ,

I want you to look for a moment at the account of Palm Sunday from the eyes of one of the participants. Not as Jesus or one of the disciples. Not as a Pharisee or a person in the crowd. Instead imagine the events of this day as the donkey colt. This young colt is surprised when two strangers approach it and then untie it. Is he being stolen? Should he run? But he soon hears the familiar voices of his owners. However, they don't protect him. He is allowed to be led away. Then they throw garments over him. No one has ever ridden him. This colt is unfamiliar with having something on his back but soon they put Jesus on him. Then they lead him on the road carrying an unfamiliar cargo. People are shouting and making all kinds of noise. In addition, people keep throwing their garments on the road just in front of this colt. Others are waving palm branches. Any other colt would freeze or get spooked and run in such a situation. But he doesn't. And we know that there was nothing special about the colt. It was his passenger who is special.

The donkey submits to carrying his Creator. The crowd of disciples praise Jesus as their Savior and King. If the donkey could speak, he would too. Jesus says that if the crowds kept silent, even the stones would cry out. The Savior-King will be praised. How blessed we are to be part of the crowd of disciples who have the honor of praising him. Today we see him enter Jerusalem triumphantly as the almighty King and Savior. Let us praise Jesus, our Savior-King.

**Jesus is the Almighty King**

*As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, <sup>30</sup> “Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ tell him, ‘The Lord needs it.’”*

Sometimes we focus on the humble way in which Jesus entered Jerusalem. That is certainly true.

However, this morning I want to focus on the displays of Jesus' power even in this account of Palm Sunday. He is the Almighty King of all. He is the one, true God. Jesus displays his true nature of God by first of all displaying his omniscience. He knows everything!

He knew where the colt would be. He knew what would happen when the disciples untied it. He told them what the owners would say and what they should say in response. Of course, everything happened exactly as Jesus said. The untied the colt, the owners asked why and when the disciples said what Jesus told them to say, the owners let them take the colt. Jesus will make a similar prediction when he sends his disciples to prepare for the Passover meal. They will find things just as he told them. The man riding a donkey is the Almighty God. He is not just the King of Jerusalem, but the King of all.

Jesus not only knew about a colt tied up in a small town, he also knows about all the details of your life. This fact can be comforting and can also make us uncomfortable. Jesus knows everything about your life. He does not have to send an investigator to find out what you meant when you said those words. He knows your heart. He does not have to conduct a lie detector test to see if you were selfish, greedy or looked at that person with lust in your heart. Jesus knows. We cannot hide our sins from the King who rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. He knows.

Therefore, part of our praise of Jesus is to humble ourselves before him in repentance. He already knows your sins. Don't insult him by trying to cover them up. Honor Jesus by confessing your sins before him. The crowd of disciples honored Jesus by spreading their cloaks on the road. Most people did not have a closet full of clothing like we do today. They may only have one outer cloak and this they threw down in the dust so that the road would be less dusty for Jesus. People kept doing this as the colt carried Jesus farther along the road. To humble oneself before someone in this way is high praise.

Some may think that praising Jesus only happens when we sing songs, hymns and spiritual songs. Certainly, that is praise. But let us also praise him by humbly confessing our sins to him. Lay down those garments of sin before Jesus. And as the people continued to do this on his ride to Jerusalem, may we also continue to do this day after day. Praise Jesus with daily contrition and repentance. For then you are calling out with the crowds, "Hosanna!" (Save me).

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His omniscience showed his almighty power as God and so did his many miracles. The people in the crowd knew about his miracles. Many of them would have seen a miracle. Some of them could have been the beneficiary of a miracle. Recently Jesus had called Lazarus out of the tomb near Bethany. They were close to Bethany now. Many would know that the man riding the colt was the same man who raised the dead Lazarus back to life. Jesus is no ordinary man. He is God, our King who has come to save us.

And here is the comfort in Jesus being the almighty and omniscient God. He knows what is happening in our life. He knows our struggles, our pain, our suffering. He knows what keeps us up at night. He knows what we fear. He knows about the bully, the job, the cancer. Jesus knows it all and as the almighty King he has the power to help. Trust that he cares for you and will do what is best for you and for your eternal future. He has already done the very best thing for us.

### **Jesus is the Savior Who Brings Peace**

*"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"*

<sup>39</sup> *Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"* <sup>40</sup> *"I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."*

The Pharisees knew exactly what the crowd was claiming about Jesus. They were praising Jesus as the promised Savior, the Messiah, the Christ. The Pharisees would not allow this. They did not think they

needed a savior from sin. The Pharisees thought one could keep all of God's commandments and earn God's favor. Why would you need a savior? And certainly, a man riding on a colt into Jerusalem could not be the promised Messiah. He doesn't look like a king or act like a king of this world. But Jesus will not silence the crowds because the crowds are right.

Jesus is the Savior. When the Son of God was born into this world, taking on our human flesh and blood, the angels said, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." And as Jesus enters Jerusalem the crowds praise him saying, "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" Jesus' mission in entering this world was to bring peace. His purpose in entering Jerusalem is to bring peace. He will accomplish peace with the flesh and blood he took when he was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. That same flesh will be beaten, whipped, pierced with thorns and nailed to a cross. His holy, precious blood will pour from his head, his hands, his feet and his side.

Yes, Jesus knows our every sin. He took every one with him to the cross. He suffered for every sin. He completed the payment for every sin. The punishment that brought us peace was upon him. Peace between God and man has been accomplished through Christ. The crowds may not have known how Jesus would achieve peace, but they praised him for it. We know how Jesus made peace and we can praise him specifically for his suffering and death.

The Pharisees tried to silence the praise of Jesus on Palm Sunday. Are there Pharisees in your life trying to silence your praise of Jesus? The world says it is foolish to praise a dead man. But he is not dead! Christ has risen!

The devil says Jesus is not the real King. He rides to his death. He doesn't help his people escape poverty, oppression or injustice. He doesn't look like a king. Why worship a King who does not give any earthly benefits? We know the benefits – forgiveness of sins, eternal life and peace with God now and forever.

The inner Pharisee tells us that it is not cool to sing church songs, to read the Bible, or to confess sins. People might think we are weird. Just blend in and don't make a scene. Praise Jesus privately but don't let anyone else know about it. Don't look weak. But we will continue to praise Jesus by confessing our sins to him and confessing him as our Savior-King in this world.

*Glory be to Jesus, Who in bitter pains  
Poured for me the lifeblood From his sacred veins.*  
(CW 103, Glory Be to Jesus, v. 1)

Amen.