

The Celebration of Palm Sunday

St. John's Church, Sealy

Welcome to the celebration of Palm Sunday. This is a joyous day in our liturgical seasons, especially after the penitential season of Lent. Yet, this is still a day of reflection.

We have removed the Purple Liturgical Colors from the Church and replaced them with the celebratory color of Red.

Just think about being a part of Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem where the crowd was shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the highest heaven!" For those assembled that day it was a grand celebration, just as it is for us today.

What could have been better than the coming of the Messiah, the Son of God, and the Liberator of the Jewish Nation?

Yes, here came the Son of God, the Almighty, and the King of Kings ---Riding on a donkey. Not on a great stallion like Julius Caesar or a giant elephant as did Alexander the Great. Just a stupid jackass.

The crowds were assembled, the people were excited, but the Messiah that appeared was not the image of one who would liberate the Jewish nation. No mighty armor, no great sword, no promise of liberation from the Roman tyranny.

What kind of Messiah was this, they wondered? Where was the pomp and grandeur that was expected of a leader?

It did not occur to the people who were disappointed that day that the prophet Zechariah had foretold the Messiah would indeed enter Jerusalem riding on a donkey. Later, some of them might have remembered, but at the time all they could see was the scene of this Christ on a donkey.

There were others who were not offended or put off. They were the dedicated ones who had been with Christ, seen the miracles, the healings; and speaking with authority to the Pharisees.

So Jesus made his triumphant entry into Jerusalem—exciting for some, and deflating for others.

Which group would we have been in were we a first century observer of this magnificent entry by Christ? Where are we today?

Christ had to be committed to his responsibilities to make such an entry on the back of a donkey. Committed to representing the love of God; God's Grace to all he met.

Christ had to have great courage, knowing where this triumphant entry would lead him---to a terrible death on the cross.

Christ had to have great compassion to make this journey, knowing he was to die for the sins of the world.

Were we there at the time of this entry into Jerusalem?

Where are you today?

Do we have the commitment to speak out and declare our love of Christ to others today? Do we worship Him in the beauty of Holiness? That is what Christ has required of us.

Do we have the courage to stand up to others in a society that mocks Christianity, the Church, and our beliefs?

Do we have the compassion to love God and our fellowman as we are required to do? And how do we show that love and compassion to others when they are not like us, do not speak like us, and are so different from us.

Christ, on his triumphant way to the cross had courage, was committed, and compassionate to all.

Today, let us reflect on our lives and dedication to the Son of God we worship and adore. Are we worthy to be called Christians?

Do we make the grade?

Are we willing to go forth, riding on the back of a donkey, professing the Love of Jesus Christ and the Grace of God in our everyday lives?

Are we willing to die in Christ, that we may have everlasting salvation for the sake of mankind.

***Jesus showed us the way, and gave us the example.
Now it is up to us to follow and obey!!!***

**The Rev. Eric LeBrocq
St. John's Sealy
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