

TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP**JOIN A SERVE TEAM****NEW HERE?****CONNECTION CARD****STAY UP TO DATE****SUBSCRIBE TO DIGITAL BULLETIN****Message Series: Jesus Set His Face****Message Title: The King Has Arrived****Scripture: Luke 19:28-44**

Throughout the second half of Luke, Jesus has been journeying to Jerusalem, where he will suffer, die, and be raised to new life. Luke 9:51 tells us that when the time came for Jesus to fulfill his mission, *“he set his face toward Jerusalem”* (ESV), or *“Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem”* (NLT).

Today, the Sunday before Easter, the Church celebrates Palm Sunday. Typically, this day is remembered for two very distinct elements of the Gospel accounts: palms and “Hosanna.” However, in Luke’s Gospel, both palm branches and the cries of “Hosanna” are omitted. Hosanna is a transliteration of the Hebrew phrase “Save us, please,” deriving from Psalm 118:25.

The King Has Arrived on Purpose

- From Luke 9:51, every moment forward, Jesus is on a determined journey, *“always pressing on toward Jerusalem”* (Luke 13:22). Every step toward Jerusalem was leading Jesus toward the cross. Jesus lamented in Luke 13:34-35 that Jerusalem was the city that *“kills the prophets and stones God’s messengers.”*
- As Jesus approached Jerusalem, he gave his disciples specific instructions to find a young donkey tied up for the Lord’s use. So they found the colt for Jesus, who rode it into Jerusalem.
- Jesus defied the expectations of the crowd as he entered on a humble donkey, not on a victorious steed. Jesus achieved victory through servanthood and sacrifice rather than dominance and dominion. In the ancient world, kings rode horses to war.
- This unexpected entrance fulfilled Zechariah 9:9: *“Rejoice, O people of Zion!” Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious,* yet he is humble, riding on a donkey—riding on a donkey’s colt.*
- Jesus intentionally arrived in Jerusalem to defy the expectations of the people who desired a King to rescue them through power, but Jesus would rescue them through his death.

The King Has Arrived to Praise

- As Jesus rode along the road, the crowds spread their garments on the road, an expression of welcome for a king (2 Kings 9:13).
- When Jesus reached the Mount of Olives, a distinct ridge approximately 2 miles east of Jerusalem, across the Kidron Valley, the crowds began to shout and sing.
- They sang Psalm 118, perhaps the entire psalm, but Luke records only Psalm 118:26. Luke wants us, as readers, to pay attention to the identity of Jesus, the King who comes in the name of Yahweh. Psalm 118 is a messianic psalm of deliverance, victory, and salvation that was sung during Passover. It carried hope because God was sending his Messiah, who is bringing peace.

- At the birth of Jesus, peace was announced; now, in his last week, it is announced at his arrival. The peace Jesus brings is through humble sacrifice, not political power.

The King Has Arrived to Pronounce Judgement

- As Jesus arrived closer to Jerusalem, he wept over it. Not just a quiet cry, but loud, gut-wrenching sobbing. Jesus grieved the city's lack of understanding his way of peace, as a sacrifice.
- The people desired a King who exerted power through conquest and offered external, political freedom. However, Jesus was coming to conquer spiritually over sin and death.
- Jesus predicted that Jerusalem would be destroyed by enemies because of their unawareness of his identity. Jesus predicted the fall of Jerusalem that took place in 70 AD, when the Romans destroyed the city and toppled the stones in the Temple.
- Jesus pronounced judgment on Jerusalem because they failed to recognize God was visiting them through his Son. The people of Jerusalem missed the most important event in history. They did not recognize the true King.

How Will You Respond to the King's Arrival?

We, too, can miss the arrival of Jesus. In all our expectations of Jesus, in all the busyness of life, in all our brokenness. So how do we respond today to Jesus' arrival?

1. We receive his humility.
 - Jesus came with humility, so we accept him as he is and stop trying to make Jesus into our own image. Jesus is the King, who offered his life for us.
2. We trust his peace.
 - Peace is found in Jesus, not in changed circumstances. Jesus changes our hearts and offers us a peace that we cannot explain but only experience (Phil 4:6-9)
3. We don't delay our response.
 - There is an urgency to respond to Jesus' peace. May we not miss his arrival, as the people of Jerusalem did.

Holy Week Reading Plan

Palm Sunday, March 28

- Matthew 21:1-11
- Mark 11:1-11
- Luke 19:28-44
- John 12:12-36

Monday, March 29

- Matthew 21:12-22
- Mark 11:12-19
- Luke 19:45-46

Tuesday, March 30

- Matthew 21:23-25:46
- Mark 11:20-13:37
- Luke 20:1-21:36

Wednesday, April 1

- Matthew 26:3-5
- Mark 14:1-2
- Luke 21:37-22:6

Thursday, April 2

- Matthew 26:17-46
- Mark 14:12-42
- Luke 22:7-46
- John 13:1-17:26

Good Friday, April 3

- Matthew 26:47-27:61
- Mark 14:43-15:47
- Luke 22:47-23:54
- John 18:2-19:42

Saturday, April 4

- Matthew 27:62-66
- Mark 16:1a
- Luke 23:56b

Easter Sunday, April 5

- Matthew 28:1-20
- Mark 16:1-20
- Luke 24:1-53
- John 20:1-23