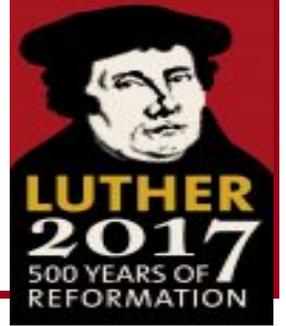


Jesus the Palm Sunday King!

Isaiah 53:1-12 Luke 19:28-40

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Don't you think that today and next Sunday are the most exciting Sundays in the Christian faith! On the one hand, they sure are exciting!

Today, on **Palm Sunday**, Jesus the King enters Jerusalem with great fanfare! The King enters the **Royal City**; God comes to His **Holy Temple**! The people are ecstatic! There is a parade of people weaving through the streets of Jerusalem. Some are waving palm branches, others are laying their robes on the road before Him, and they are all are singing the Psalm, **"Hosanna! Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!"**

And if that was not grand enough, next week is **Easter Sunday**! The King is alive! He is has risen from the dead! **Alleluia!** is sung in heaven and on earth! Roman guards were terrified, women have seen the risen Lord, and the disciples are running back and forth from the empty tomb. There has never been as great a miracle as the resurrection! Jerusalem is abuzz with the news of the resurrection!

Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday certainly appear to be the most exciting days in the Christian faith!

It might be nice to think about Christianity like that, but *unfortunately* the Bible does not let you!

There is whole lot more to the story that than these two grand and majestic Sundays. Remember, there is no glory before the cross. **The colt that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday is the key to understanding it all!** Here is one of the Palm Sunday Messianic Prophecies:

Rejoice 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.
ZECHARIAH 9:9

Three times the colt is referred to in this one verse! Jesus is not a king riding on a majestic white stallion surrounded by soldiers; rather He is a lowly, humble king

riding on a colt surrounded by disciples, just as the Messianic prophecy predicted. **The King is not here to reign; He is here to die, just as the Old Testament prophecies predicted.** Palm Sunday begins Holy Week, sometimes Holy Week is called “Passion” week --- “*passion*” is the Latin word for “*suffering*” – it is the week when **Jesus suffers and He dies** for the sins of the world.

Jesus is a King who uses His mighty power to **set you free** --- He sets you free from sin, guilt, your sinful nature, the devil and his demons, and even death itself. **The way He sets you free is by dying for you.** Jesus carried your sins into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, and He faced the terrible wrath of God on your behalf on Good Friday. Jesus dies a sinners’ death on a Roman cross for you and for me. Remember the prophecy ...

Surely He took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered Him punished by God, stricken by Him, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by His wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. ISAIAH 53:4-6

Jesus death is the only sacrifice God accepts on your behalf. Your sins were placed on Jesus, and you are **set free** from them! When Jesus died, you were **forgiven** and **reconciled** with God. *Christ died for sins once and for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.* God considers you **holy** and **righteous!** **The King has set you free!** You have eternal salvation because of the King’s death on Good Friday, and His resurrection on the third day!

The grandest and most exciting and significant days in the Christian faith are not two Sundays, but rather a *Friday* and a *Sunday*: **Good Friday and **Easter Sunday!****

Jesus the King not only has set you free from sin, guilt, and death, but He has left you an **inheritance** in His **last will and testament**. Just like parents leave their children an inheritance after they die, so too Jesus left you an inheritance after He died.

That inheritance is forgiveness, life and salvation!

Jesus gives you this inheritance in Holy Communion. He has attached His body and blood to His last will and testament in Holy Communion! In this miraculous meal, He gives you your inheritance: **forgiveness, life and salvation!**

In Holy Communion, you are given the crucified and risen body and blood of Jesus the King in the bread and wine. It is here where He forgives sins and sets you free. **Because the King died, you get an inheritance: your inheritance is forgiveness, life and salvation!** Holy Communion is Jesus' "last will and (NEW) TESTAMENT" for you!

Jesus the King,
enters Jerusalem on a colt to suffer and die *for the sins of the world;*

Jesus the King has given you the gift of Holy Communion as His will and NEW TESTAMENT, *for the forgiveness of your sins!*

This same Jesus is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords who will return on the Last Day. **On the Last Day, Jesus will be a different kind of king than He was on Palm Sunday.**

On the Last Day, Jesus will not be a lowly king riding a colt!

On the Last Day, Jesus is pictured as riding a majestic white horse (Rev 19:11) surrounded by all the holy angels.

On the Last Day, Jesus the king will return to earth in great glory and honor --- not lowly and humbly.

On the Last Day, *"every eye will see him, and all peoples on earth will mourn because of him."*

Jesus will return on the Last Day in **complete victory** over all of His enemies, which are our enemies also: He will finally and completely destroy all evil, sin, the devil and his demons, and even death itself! He will be victorious and triumphant! Jesus the King is coming back to raise our bodies from the dead and take us to heaven! **We eagerly await with great anticipation the Last Day when we get to see Jesus the King with our very own eyes!**

But until then, we live our lives in King's Kingdom. He has set us free from our sin so that we may live lives of holiness and godliness. Here is a sample of how the New Testament encourages us to holy living:

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

COLOSSIANS 3:1-2

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

ROMANS 12:9

He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace.

1 TIMOTHY 1:9

We live **humble** lives of **repentance and faith**.

We live with persecution, hatred, and bias just because we believe in Jesus.

We live lives of love: serving and helping other people.

We live lives of witness as we share the Good News of Jesus' death and resurrection with others

We live lives of faithfulness, as we gather weekly to worship the King, to hear His Word and to receive our inheritance in Bread and Wine

We live lives of hope, knowing that the King is coming soon, and He will raise our lowly bodies so that they will be like His resurrected body!

**Until we see the King with our own eyes,
we live in His Kingdom, filled with His Spirit,
eating His Meal, and obeying His Word!**

Palm Sunday begins Holy week, and it is certainly a grand day as the King enters the Holy and Royal city of Jerusalem. But there is yet a grander day to come Good Friday, the day the King dies for the sins world once and for all! Three days later He rises from the dead on Easter Sunday!

*It is a **Friday** and a **Sunday** that are
the most significant and exciting days in the Christian faith:
Good Friday and **Easter Sunday!***