

The Humble King

PALM SUNDAY

Psalm 118:14-29 Phil 2:1-11 Luke 19:28-40

April 14, 2019

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Holy Week begins today.

It is the single most important week in the history of the world. This is the last week of Jesus' work as the Savior of the world. Holy Week begins with a parade; as the people sing "Hosanna!" and welcome Jesus into Jerusalem with palm branches; but the week will plummet into the darkness of a cruel crucifixion and cold burial.

This time next week, very early in the morning, the greatest, most significant miracle that has ever happened will take place: the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead! *Holy Week is the single most important week in the history of the world.*

As Holy Week begins, it is important that we take a step back and remember WHO Jesus is as He enters Jerusalem on this Palm Sunday.

The magnitude of Jesus' humility is astonishing!! And it is highlighted this week!

Jesus is the Son of God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity; He is the Creator of everything seen and unseen. He is the Great God of the Old Testament. At a specific point in time, Jesus is conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. This is the Christmas story. At His birth in Bethlehem, the angels of Heaven sang His praise; At His Baptism, the Holy Spirit appeared and descended upon Him as God Father declared that this was His very own Son. Every miracle of Jesus reminds us that He is the Almighty and Omnipotent God. And at His Transfiguration, we were given a glimpse of His divine glory and honor as His face and clothes shined as bright as the sun in the sky! The Holy Christian Church confesses to the

world that *Jesus is the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made.*

Every single one of these things is true about Jesus . . . but yet He humbled Himself and set it all aside in order to suffer terribly and die dreadfully for sinful, rebellious, and immoral people – *like you and like me.*

The magnitude of Jesus' humility is astonishing!!

Although Christ Jesus was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but **made himself nothing**, taking the form of a **servant**, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, **He humbled himself** by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
Philippians 2:6-8

Although Jesus is the Almighty God of Heaven and Earth, He humbled Himself and set it all aside to suffer and die as your Savior.

On Palm Sunday, God Himself enters Jerusalem --- but you would never know it by looking at Jesus. He is a humble King and a lowly servant riding on a donkey who will allow the Jews and the Romans to beat and flog Him, they will spit on Him, they will insult Him, mock Him, they will pound a crown of thorns into His head. He will then be cruelly crucified and then quickly buried in a borrowed tomb.

Doctrinally and theologically, Jesus' humility means that He always had all of His divine, omnipotent power, but He simply chose not to use those powers so that He could suffer and die for us and our salvation. In the Small Catechism, this is called His "State of Humiliation".

Jesus, the almighty God of Heaven and Earth, humbled Himself and was obedient to God the Father. God the Father so loved the world that in order to save all people, He would give up His Only Begotten Son on a cross. Jesus' death will reconcile us to God; and forgive our sins. Everyone who believes in Jesus will live forever in the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus was obedient to His Father, He humbled Himself, and He willingly set aside His divinity in order to pay the penalty for our sin and die on a cross for each one of us.

The magnitude of Jesus' humility is astonishing!! And its highlighted during Holy Week!

The eternal, all-powerful Son of God humbled Himself and became a Man for the specific purpose of suffering and dying for you and for me!

Jesus' humility means salvation for you. His death brings you the forgiveness of sins. His resurrection from the dead brings you eternal life.

Jesus' humility also empowers you to live a humble life. Here is how the Apostle Paul teaches it to us:

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but **in humility count others more significant than yourselves**. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.
Philippians 2:1-4

**We learn from Jesus how to live as humble people.
Jesus' humility empowers you to live a humble life.**

Humility is a **mindset**; it is an **attitude** where you consider other people more significant than yourself; it is an **approach** to other people where you look for ways to serve, love and care for other people. Humility is a **determination** to be "other-centered", not "self-centered." We learn from Jesus how to live as humble people.

During our Lenten journey, we have been studying how the Bible teaches us to be humble people.

- † It begins when you deny yourself any chance of saving yourself, and you trust only in Christ and His mercy for salvation. Then each day, you pick up your cross as you live a holy life following Jesus, even if it means facing persecution.
- † Humility is a constant awareness that you belong to the Lord and that you *are dependent on Him for all things* . . . like a branch to a vine.
- † Humility is seeing yourself as a fragile "Jar of Clay"; and that anything good that you do is the power of God at work within you.
- † Humility realizes that everything you are and everything you have is a gift from God's good hand.
- † Humility is placing yourself under the authority and power of the Word of God: and then trusting it, obeying it, and confessing it!

- † Humility is loving service to others that is motivated by Christ and His love for you. Just as Jesus “washed our feet”, so too we are to “wash other people’s feet”.
- † Humility is turning to God in prayer for all good things; and looking to him in times of trouble.

All of these things that we have studied begin with Jesus; He is not only your example, but He is the eternal Son of God who empowers you to live in humility every day and in all situations and with all kinds of people. *Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourself. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

**The magnitude of Jesus’ humility is astonishing
And it empowers us to live humble lives as His People!**

As Holy Week begins today, we rejoice, and we pray “Hosanna!” as we wave our palms branches. But we know what is coming this week. As this week spirals into demonic darkness,

- Jesus will be **betrayed** by a kiss, by one of the 12 disciples!
- He will be **arrested** by an armed crowd,
- He will be **denied** by Peter -- His close friend.
- He will be **ridiculed** with a purple robe;
- He will be **crowned** with painful thorns;
- He will be **beaten, whipped, spit on, insulted and abused;**
- He will be **tried in a mock trial** by the high priest, and
- He will be **dragged before an unjust Roman Governor**
- He will **die by crucifixion**
- He will be **buried** in a stranger’s tomb
- **AND HE WILL RISE FROM THE DEAD ON THE THIRD DAY!**

**The depth of Jesus’ humility is indescribable;
it is truly astonishing.**

Jesus’ suffering, death, and resurrection make Holy Week the single most important week in the history of the world. Amen!