

Holy Week Devotionals

By R. L. Tigh

Palm Sunday “The Triumphal Entry”

Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-40; John 12:12-19

“Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free...” Charles Wesley

“And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and sat on it. And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, ‘Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!’” Mark 11:7-10

That Sunday in the early spring was unlike any that came before it. The king of the whole universe was presenting himself as the humble, warrior king come to destroy sin, death, and the devil. The prophet Zechariah spoke of His coming saying, “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! behold your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey.”¹ The crowd cut down palm branches and waived them, saying “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” The palm branch was a sign of battle victory. When the Pharisees saw what was happening they tried to silence the people, but Jesus said “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.” The crowds shouted “Hosanna, Hosanna,” which means, “Save us, we pray.” The crowd was looking for Jesus to set up an earthly kingdom to destroy the power of Rome, to cast the Gentiles out of their land, and to restore Israel to its former glory. Jesus came to Jerusalem not to set up an earthly kingdom but to save man from sin, to conquer death, to crush the head of the serpent.² He came to pay the price for salvation, to redeem a people for himself, by his sacrifice on the cross, to forgive sin³ and to destroy the power of death.⁴

So with the Psalmist we can sing “Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty in battle! Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory!” Psalm 24:7-10

Hymn

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor” by Theodulph of Orleans, Trinity Hymnal page #235

The Baptist Catechism

Question: “How does Christ execute the office of a King?”

Answer: “Christ executes the office of a King in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.”

Family Activity

Paper Crown: Tape or staple sheets of paper together so that when placed upon the head they fit like a crown. Cut the top of the paper to look like a crown. Make the crowns look beautiful. Decorate the crown with words & or pictures representing Christ, such as the Bread of Life, Living Water, the cross...

¹ Zechariah 9:9; ² Geneses 3:15; ³ John 1:9; ⁴ 1 Corinthians 15:54-55