

Palm Sunday Year B

Today we have two Gospels – one at Jesus' entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday)
and the other we just read, The Passion

The official title of today's liturgy is "Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion"

The triumphant entry into Jerusalem is just one more step toward the cross. **The Passion is the focus**

A key point to notice in the 1st Gospel:

1. In MK – Not just Palms – they also spread their cloaks – their most expensive garment
In welcoming Jesus, they gave of themselves *As should we*

As Jesus enters Jerusalem imagine the excitement of the Apostles

CLEARLY WE BACKED A WINNER

Imagine the pride of Mary

THAT'S MY BOY

But can we even dare to come close to what was going on in Jesus' mind?

Crowds shout HOSANNA! Notice the punctuation – an exclamation point

Usually Jesus is met with a question mark

Nazareth - Where did this man get all this?

Pilate – Are you the king of the Jews?

Pilate – So you are a king?

BUT HERE – HOSANNA! – only an exclamation point will do

But what was He thinking?

What was this experience like for Jesus?

Notice – Jesus takes the initiative in entering Jerusalem

He had sent 2 disciples on ahead to get the colt

He predicts what they will encounter – what questions will be asked - & how to reply

He mounts the colt and the procession starts (WHY)

Zach 9:9 Rejoice greatly O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Lo your king comes to you, triumphant and victorious is He, humble and riding on as ass, on a colt, the foal of an ass

It's not a spontaneous demonstration

Jesus is fulfilling prophecy

His passion will do the same – He is the suffering servant mentioned in Isaiah

Isaiah predicts the passion – they will pluck my beard, my bones will be numbered, they will look upon Him whom they have pierced

He had told the disciples that the Son of Man must suffer, die, and rise

He'd predicted the passion that was to come

BUT RIGHT HERE, ENTERING JERUSALEM – HOSANNA!

Here at the gates of Jerusalem were exclamation points

One of the GREATEST journeys we can take is from a question mark to an exclamation point

From a question about Jesus to an exclamation point when we meet Him

From a question mark about LIFE, to an exclamation point when we truly live it

That journey requires ACTION

We only really meet Jesus when we follow Him

When we do the things that He says – then our punctuation marks change

It is no longer ARE YOU? But HOSANNA!

As a post-resurrection people we know where the passion leads

As a post-resurrection people we mourn the passion – but we know its fruit

HOSANNA – Christ triumphant HOSANNA – Christ crucified HOSANNA – resurrection
Christ's destiny **& OURS**