

## PALM SUNDAY, MAR 24, 2024

He writes how they were ignorant of what was happening. For it would have offended them if, as a king, they found out that he was about to suffer such things and be betrayed like he was. (*Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture, John 11–21, 55*)

By 1930, William Randolph Hearst owned more than thirty major American newspapers. He had enough money to collect some of the most prized paintings in the world. One day, Hearst decided there was one painting that he had to have. He hired an agent who searched high and low for months, trying to find it. He traveled all over the world, but with no success. Finally, the agent found the painting. And where did he find it? In the warehouse of William Randolph Hearst! So often we miss it.

By not associating this King with horses, John invites us to embrace a Ruler who will not exploit or dominate those who live under His reign. Contrast this with the pride of Egyptian pharaohs (e.g., Exodus 5:2; 15:9); Assyrian kings (e.g., Isaiah 10:8–11; 36:4–10); and those of Tyre (Ezekiel 28:11–19), as well as Israel's first king, Saul, who was the tallest and most handsome man in Israel (1 Samuel 9:2). John's King aligns Himself instead with Isaiah's Suffering Servant (Isaiah 49:1–6; 50:4–9; 52:13–53:12). Though rich, this King became poor so that through His poverty He might make us rich (2 Corinthians 8:9)—beyond our wildest imagination (Ephesians 3:20). A King like this is worth shouting about!

### The Triumphal entry into Jerusalem

*So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" John 12:13*

### READINGS

John 12:12-19 (Palm Sunday Procession)

Zechariah 9:1-12

Psalm 118:19-29 (antiphon: v. 26)

or Psalm 31:9-16 (antiphon: v. 5)

Philippians 2:5-11

Mark 14:1-15:47 / or Mark 15:1-47 or John 12:20-43

### INTROIT

Ps 24:7-10; antiphon Ps. 118:26

Blessed is he who comes in the name | of the LORD! \*

We bless you from the house | of the LORD.

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, the LORD, 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!

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son \***

**and to the Holy | Spirit;**

**as it was in the be- | ginning, \***

**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name | of the LORD! \*

We bless you from the house | of the LORD.

### COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,

You sent Your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,

to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross.

Mercifully grant

that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience

and be made partakers of His resurrection;

through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord,

who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever. **Amen.** (L28)

Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### GRADUAL

Heb. 9:12a, c, 15a; Ps.

111:9a

[Christ] entered once for all into the holy places, by means of | his own blood, \*

thus securing an eternal re- | demption.

Therefore he is the mediator of a new | covenant, \*

so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal in- | heritance.

He sent redemption to his | people; \*

he has commanded his covenant for- | ever.

Christ entered once for all into the holy places, by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance. He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever.

### VERSE

Phil 2:8b

He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

## PALM SUNDAY

### WITNESSES TO CHRIST: THE DISCIPLES (JOHN 12:12–19)

The enthronement ceremony for an Israelite king provides an important context for Palm Sunday. Descriptions appear in 1 Kings 1:32–48 (Solomon) and 2 Kings 11:12–20 (Joash). People were gathered by blowing trumpets (1 Kings 1:34, 39; 2 Kings 11:14). Crowds then responded with shouts of acclamation: “Long live the king!” (1 Samuel 10:24; 2 Kings 11:12) or “May he reign” (cf. 2 Samuel 15:10; 2 Kings 9:13).

While all four Gospels include a narrative describing Palm Sunday, John includes several unique features: the use of palms; the crowd had been with Jesus since the raising of Lazarus; and the disciples didn’t initially understand the significance of the events.

Mark 11:1–10 narrates Christ’s entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday but does not quote from Zechariah 9:9; neither does Luke 19:28–38. On the other hand, both Matthew 21:1–9 and John 12:12–16 include Zechariah’s messianic prophecy. John conflates Zechariah 9:9 with Zephaniah 3:14–17—a passage exhorting people to sing aloud and rejoice because God is among them. John also omits the details regarding the King’s humility and gift of salvation.

### READINGS

Old Testament:	Zechariah 9:9-10
Epistle:	Philippians 2:5-11
Gospel:	John 12:12-19

### SERMON RESOURCES

Chrysostom, *The Former Ignorance of the Apostles*:

But observe the wisdom of the Evangelist, how he is not ashamed to parade the disciples’ former ignorance.