

Historical, magnificent events, our holiest week. 300 years before Jesus entered Jerusalem, there was another king, triumphant entry, welcomed with great jubilation. That king, Alexander the Great. Jewish historian Josephus tells us Alexander entered Jerusalem on a powerful war horse that served him well in battle. The parade of grandeur would have caused even you to marvel, chariots and military might displayed, the musicians, choirs, parades of animals, parade of conquered peoples, exotic treasures from conquered lands, precious materials, an amazing display of might and power and majesty. Triumphant entries throughout human history are to show strengthen, a conquering king.

The high priest led Alexander to the temple, where the book of Daniel opened to the place that predicted the coming Greek ruler who would destroy the Persian Empire. All agreed, Alexander was this conquering hero.

What contrast to Jesus entering Jerusalem: lowly, humble, meek as you could get, unlike earthly kings. A borrowed donkey, an animal of peace, instead of being hailed with hundreds of archers, chariots, horsemen, not as a military warrior; and rebuked by the religious leaders.

But Jesus, fulfilling prophecy that day; crowds shouted **Hosanna**, Save us now Lord. They know God's Word, recorded by the prophets and David. Greeted him with Psalm 118, this is the Christ of God, their Messiah, the Savior. And the words Zechariah used, speak of a royal wedding, God's people the bride, the lowly bridegroom to bring peace, in humble procession to meet His beloved. Yet, He enters to do battle.

It may all seems like ancient history. For some, your confirmation seems like ancient history. Know this well, how your God shows His strengthen, how, where He is king.

His triumphant entry, tied to Good Friday. His power in humbleness, not to conquer but to be conquered, not to take life, but to lay His down, not to judge but to be condemned, not to punish sin but to be punished for yours. His most majestic crown -thorns tied to the curse of your first parents, He's come to undue. His throne, His glory, a cross as He declares, **lifted up**, all for you. **To draw all people unto Myself**, there, where He dies to have you. See His glory, your glory there. **Behold, your king**.

Ponder the great love of God that sent Him to Jerusalem for the forgiveness of sins. His love to save His people. There's no other way. We have no other help, no other hope. Your corruption, unworthiness, stench, filth, consider what your sins have done to Him.

He comes bringing His salvation. We desire to be where Jesus is. Yes of course God is Omnipresent, even in the most sinfully wretched places on earth, but where does Jesus promise to be with you with His grace, forgiveness, literal presense. Here.

Remember when Jesus came to Zacchaeus' house? Jesus said, **Salvation has come to your house**. Salvation is where the flesh and blood of Jesus is. Salvation is not some abstract thought or decision, but the intrinsic gift of His presence. Where He is (His Word read, proclaimed, His Sacraments) there His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. We so often forget that salvation still comes to His bride, in His house, where the flesh, blood of Jesus comes still.

Don't miss this sacred mystery the liturgy teaches each week: Jesus is here for you, today, to draw you into, gives you the fruits of His Passion in His Supper. What the children cry out to Jesus, we cry every week in the communion liturgy: **Hosanna in the Highest! Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord!** This chorus of praise still greets our King when He comes to be with His beloved, in his body and blood in the Supper. Your King still comes to you, still humble and lowly in His Sacrament, as the bridegroom to claim His bride, the church, in His new Jerusalem for this wedding feast.

In Jesus humiliation and dying, He teaches us a lesson. A lesson that may be, in fact, the most important key to living in this world. The lesson. That strengthen is found in humble weakness, joy is found in sorrow, life is found in death, to stand firm unto Him in faith, know He has your cause. Proven on our Lord's cross, proven in His Word, in His Church, in your baptismal life.

His cross, the very pattern for your life. And Jesus bids you to come, follow Him. Believe His promise, not knowing where you go, all that lays in store for you, but only that His hand is leading you, His love supporting us, His Word, Sacraments nourishing you.

Today **Jonathan Aubrey, Keegan, Dalton, Collin** confess their faith in this King, this bridegroom. Every confirmation, a reminder of your confirmation, for He who redeemed you a lost and condemned person, purchased and won you from all sin, death and the power of the devil with His holy precious Blood and His innocent suffering and death. You are born of water and blood from His pierced side. Vow to suffer all, even death rather than fall away.

Here is the greatest news you will ever hear. He comes for sinners. To forgive you, by His passion and death. He is present in this place to hear, answer your prayers. Your hosannas never fall on deaf ears. Your request for life, salvation is granted. Come, receive the answer to your deepest need in this heavenly meal prepared for you.

This week, our holiest days. What we are always about; always commemorating, observing, feasting. You have immeasurable value, not only as a life He created, but as a dear baptized child, immeasurable worth because of what happens this week, what God is willing to pay to have you for eternity, even keep you each day. Historical, magnificent events, you are part, joined to this story of salvation, given now for you. Behold, your King comes for you.