Each of the Gospels tells us of the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Each account differs a bit from the others. For instance, Matthew’s account tells us there were a donkey and a colt (Matthew 21:1-11\*). Mark 11:9-10\*\* tells us of the shouts of Hosana, a prayer and a proclamation meaning “save us” or “salvation is here.” Luke speaks of the confrontation with the Pharisees (Luke 19:39-40\*\*\*). And in John 12, we see the only mention palms in all four Gospels. The others say leafy branches, but John 12:13\*\*\*\* specifies palms. But, Family, all of them declare to us the same critical fact: Our King has come!!

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\*Matthew 21:1-11

1 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples,

2 saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me.

3 If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

4 This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

5 “Say to Daughter Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’ ”

6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them.

7 They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on.

8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

9 The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

10 When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”

11 The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

\*\*Mark 11:9-10

9 Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, “Hosanna! ” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

10 “Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!” “Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

\*\*\*Luke 19:39-40

39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”

40 “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

\*\*\*\*John 12:13

13 They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna! ” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the king of Israel!”

Yes, our King has come! Humbly, mounted on a donkey, endowed with salvation as Zechariah 9:9 tells us. He does not arrive as the crowd expects; no, He arrives as what we needed and need. He comes not as a political power or military general to overthrow and conquer Rome but as Savior King to overcome and conquer death, hell, and the grave. He came to rescue a hurting world.

This morning, Family, let us look again at our Messiah, who in just days after arriving to cheers of “Hail Him” would hear many of this same crowd change “Nail Him!” Perhaps with a fresh look at Him, we can see him as King of our lives. Often, we readily accept Him as Savior but not quite so readily accept Him as King of our lives. In the Luke account of events leading to His triumphal entry, Jesus tells his disciples to answer anyone who questions their taking the donkey with these words: “The Lord has need of it” (Luke 19:34). That word “Lord” is significant in that Christ is to be obeyed and followed (Acts 2:36\*). In Zechariah 9:9, I want to show you something quite significant: “Behold ***your*** King is coming to ***you***.” See and hear what Zechariah tells you: This King arrives for us! Personal and perfect, humble and victorious! And our response to this amazing news is to ***rejoice***! Family, when we recognize Jesus and honor Him as King, it is to His glory and our benefit. In honoring Him, we live in triumph. We surrender to Him dominion over our lives, our circumstances, our expectations. You see, we don’t just recognize Him as King when we think things are going our way. We are to give to Him reverence, honor, and obedience because of the glory bestowed upon Him (Philippians 2:8-11\*). Family, for many on that day Jesus had entered their city, entered their surroundings, but didn’t enter their hearts. Look at what Jesus

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\*Acts 2:36

36 “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

\*\*Philippians 2:8-11

8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!

9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

says about Himself in John 18:36-37:

36 Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

37 “You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

We enter the Kingdom through His victory, but, Family, listen: Submitting to His Lordship is a lifelong process that begins at salvation. He calls us to recognize His Kingship by grace through faith. He is the King who draws near to us, the King who chose the cross for our victory. Our response to Jesus should be submission to His word and authority, followed by rejoicing and a shout of triumph! And knowing that one day, everyone will see Jesus as King, we rejoice in His coming and in His coming again!!! Our faith in the hope of His coming fills us with great joy. Faith in His Lordship sustains us even while this world has gone mad.

 Faith causes us to run toward Heaven with hearts filled with hope, trusting in His Lordship that He will fulfill His promise. Sadly, some folks, however, want just enough Jesus—enough for salvation but not enough to inconvenience them, not enough to help them get off the throne of their hearts and allow Him to take His rightful place., to have Him rule their lives. But our King can do a much better job of running our lives that we can. This is our King, all-knowing and all-powerful. REJOICE IN HIM. WORSHIP HIM. OBEY HIM. This is the King that weeps for the lost, who died for our sins and rose again in victory, while maintaining the authority of Heaven. That’s my King. Peace be in Heaven and Glory in the Highest. Family, I encourage you this morning to see Jesus for who He is. You may ask along with the Palm Sunday crowd, “When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, ‘Who is this?’” (Matthew 21:10). But remember Zechariah 9:9: “Behold, your King is coming to you!” He comes to take His rightful place on the throne of our hearts. But you and I have to get out of His way!

 Church, as we enter this Holy Week, I want to encourage you to remember that ***your*** King has come, is here, and is coming again. I want to remind you that your King loves you enough to die for you. And He has authority to overcome death and deserves our submission and devotion. We must each ask ourselves, “Am I a willing subject of His authority?” As we remember that on the back of that donkey, with Him He brought

salvation, peace, freedom, deliverance and victory. And by His grace, He also brought us the plan for our eternity, giving us the promise of eternal life through faith and repentance. Family, as we approach Good Friday and the victory of Easter, take time to behold your King. What is your response to His Lordship? To His authority? Truly acknowledging Him as King brings great joy. And in obedience and devotion, we glorify Him. Let us look forward to Holy Week, His suffering, His majesty, and His Glory!

Passages in support of this message:

Zechariah 9:9

9 Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Luke 19:28-41

28 After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

29 As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them,

30 “Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here.

31 If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it.’ ”

32 Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them.

33 As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?”

34 They replied, “The Lord needs it.”

35 They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it.

36 As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

37 When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

38 “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”

40 “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

41 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it