A Different Parade

Written by Rev. James W. Gallagher March, 2020 For First Lutheran Church, Monmouth, Illinois For permission to use, please contact at (630-200-3550)

Introduction

Imagine you are with a family living in the time of Jesus. You have traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration. You hear there is an annual event, when the city celebrates with a parade honoring God's chosen Messiah. So, you go to the parade with your family. Perhaps this is what happens:

Cast

Parent 1, Parent 2, Child 1, Child 2

Script

- Parent 1: Well, here we are. The parade route should go right by us.
- Parent 2: This looks like a great spot to set up our chairs and watch the parade.
- Child 1: When do we see the National Stearman Fly-in?
- Parent 1: That is a different parade
- Child 2: I want Candy
- Parent 1: That is a different parade
- Child 1: I want marching bands
- Parent 1: That is a different parade
- Parent 2: I want to see the parade horses
- Parent 1: That is a different parade
- Child 1 and 2: Well why did we come to the wrong parade then?
- Parent 1: Because this is the parade that welcomes the Savior into God's Holy City Jerusalem
- Child 1: Doesn't he get fly over of really cool bi-planes?
- Parent 1: No, he comes in without fancy bi-planes
- Child 1: Well, that doesn't make this parade very fun
- Child 2: Doesn't he throw candy?
- Parent 1: No, in fact you will watch as people throw their coats and branches of palms onto the road as he enters.
- Child 2: We are supposed to throw things at the parade?

Parent 1:	The coats and palms are a way of welcoming in the Savior
Child 1:	Shouldn't he have big marching bands?
Parent 2:	No, but you will hear a lot of people singing – singing Hosanna in the highest heaven. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna!
Child 1:	Sounds like a great marching band song.
Parent 1:	Actually, it is a prayer $-$ it is a prayer calling on Heaven to save us. To save us from our enemies, to save us from all the binds us, to save us from all that keeps us from being God's holy people
Child 2:	It sounds like it would be great on trumpets and drums.
Child 1:	And there should be a drum major leading them. It just isn't a parade without a marching band.
Parent 1:	The people will be singing. We will be singing. And if we couldn't sing, the rocks themselves would sing
Parent 2:	But at least the Savior will ride in on a big, proud stallion, a symbol of power and strength and might and conquest.
Parent 1:	No, actually he will be riding in on a donkey
Child 1 and 2, Parent 2: A Donkey?	
Parent 1:	Yes, a donkey is a symbol of peace and humility.
Parent 2:	Look here comes the parade now! Do we have our palm branches?
Child 1 and 2:	Hurry, hurry – toss them on the road, make way for the Savior
ALL:	Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the Highest
Child 2:	I think he waved at me.
Child 1:	He didn't look like much of a king.
Parent 2:	That was the shortest parade ever.
Parent 1:	It was really a different parade.
Parent 2:	I am so glad we were here to see it.
Child 1:	Yeah, me too.
Child 2:	Me three
Parent 4:	Me Four
ALL:	Yep. We just saw the parade that will change everything. Our Savior has arrived.