

Mosaic Church DC

Sermon Reflection Guide

6th Sunday in Lent/Palm Sunday 2015

Sermon: "Hosanna"

Mark 11.1-11

Reader:

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.' " They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

Everyone:

"Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Reader:

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Palm Sunday?

"Honestly, I'm uncertain how Palm Sunday came to be called Palm Sunday. This story could have been called "Donkey Sunday" after the humble steed Jesus rides into town. I've always smiled at the image of Jesus bumping into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey." What is your response to the scene of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey?

Hosanna Sunday

"'Hosanna' is a Hebrew word which mixes praise to God with the prayer that God will save his people, and do so right away' (N.T. Wright). To shout "Hosanna" properly, one must do so with a sense of joy and urgency." From what do you need saving? Have you ever experienced an urgent need for God's saving work in your life?

"Triumphal" Entry?

"The word 'triumphal' seems just a little hyperbolic when you imagine how this moment may have actually played out. Jesus sits silently on the back of the small donkey (I imagine his feet nearly dragging the ground) as a crowd, perhaps about the size of our church, throws their outer cloaks and tree branches in his path." How do you respond to the humility of this moment?

The Lowliness of God

"Jesus submitted himself to the lowliness of the human condition. The only thing triumphal, the only thing regal, about this scene is Jesus sitting quietly on the back of the small equine form. Watching this scene play out is all about watching the 'authoritative lowliness' of God." What does the phrase "lowliness of God" mean to you?