

March 29, 2026 Palm Sunday Message: The Jesus Who Saves!

Palm Sunday is the day recorded in Scripture when Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as the promised Messiah and King, and was publicly welcomed by the people with praise, palm branches, and cries of Hosanna (save now). Which begins Jesus humble journey to the cross.

Mat 21:1-11 The Triumphal Entry (Parallel Passages: Mark 11:1–10; Luke 19:28–40; John 12:12–19)

Mat 21:1 Now when they (Jesus & His disciples) drew near (approached) Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples (ahead of them),

Mat 21:2 (Jesus) saying to them (two disciples), "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately, you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose (untie) them and bring them to Me.

Mat 21:3 "And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he (the owner) will send them (without delay, he will give you his donkeys)."

Mat 21:4 - All this was done (happened), that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying:

Mat 21:5 "Tell the daughter of Zion (Jerusalem) (Isa 62:11), 'Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly (humbly), and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal (a baby or not fully grown male) of a donkey (Zech 9:9).'"

Isa 62:11 Indeed the LORD has proclaimed To the end of the world: "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Surely your salvation is coming; Behold, His reward is with Him, And His work before Him.'"

Kings generally rode horses in war and donkeys in peace. Jesus is saying My kingdom is not built through violence, but through humility.

Prophesy fulfilled

Zec 9:9 "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just (vindicated & victorious), and having salvation, Lowly (humble & afflicted) and riding on a donkey, A colt (lit. son of a female donkey, Gen 49:11), the foal of a donkey.

Describing the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, it is recorded in all four gospels: Matt 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-38; John 12:14-16

Mat 21:6 - So the disciples (**two disciples**) went and did as Jesus commanded them.

Parallel Passages in Mark 11 has added details

Mar 11:4-7 So they went their way, and found the colt tied by the door outside on the street, and they loosed it.

Mar 11:5 But some of those who stood there said to them, "What are you doing, loosing the colt?"

Mar 11:6 And they spoke to them just as Jesus had commanded. So they let them go.

Mar 11:7 Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes on it, and He sat on it.

Mat 21:7 They brought the donkey and the colt (**Colt not used or sat on, was considered Holy by the Jews**), laid their clothes (**coats, garments**) on them, and set Him(**Jesus**) on them (**garments, coats etc.**).

They laid their clothes (**coats, garments**) on the donkeys and put Jesus on top of their cloths. A Beautiful picture of Jesus, giving Himself for the people.

Mat 21:8 And a very great multitude (**most of the crowd**) spread their clothes on the road (**show a sign the king was coming, also a symbol of submission to the king**); others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

The palm branches, a symbol of victory and hope.

Mat 21:9 Then the multitudes (**large crowds**) who went before (**Jesus**), and those who followed, cried out (**in praise**), saying: "**Hosanna (save now, save I pray now, Salvation is here)!** to the Son of David (**Messiah, the Christ, Anointed One**)! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD! (Ps 118:25-26)' Hosanna in the highest (**the Heavens, Ps 148**)!"

Hosanna means "save now" Psalm 118:25-26 Messianic psalm.

Psa 118:25 Save now, I pray, O LORD; O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity (we pray deliver us and grant us success).

Psa 118:26 (**Prophecy Fulfilled**) Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We have blessed you, from the house (**sanctuary**) of the LORD.

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week—the day Jesus entered Jerusalem, not as a conquering warrior, but as a humble King.

This was not the arrival people generally expected. They wanted political freedom from Rome and conquering leader. Jesus came to bring something deeper: freedom from sin, fear, and death. He did not come the first time with swords but to bring peace through His suffering and death.

The same crowd that cried Hosanna, prophetically proclaiming a Messianic psalm! Would days later, cry out Crucify Him. It is interesting their praise turned into rejection because they misunderstand the purpose for His coming. Palm Sunday contains both celebration and foreshadowing of suffering, death and then resurrection victory.

Application: Do we follow Jesus for who He is, or for what we want Him to do for us?

Will we welcome Jesus as King in every part of our lives?

Will we still follow Him when He does not meet our expectations or our understanding?

True worship and following Jesus is not just words or waving palm branches, it is surrendering our hearts and life's to Jesus (fully God & Man**) in every situation.**

Luk 9:23 Then He(Jesus**) said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.**

Palm Sunday is not just history but an invitation to believe and come follow Jesus with all your heart.

Rom 10:8 But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach):

Rom 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

Mat 21:10 And when He(Jesus**) had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved (**with a unknown excitement**), saying, "Who is this?"**

The Timing of the Messiah's Arrival

Daniel 9:24-26 describes a timeline leading to the coming of the Messiah. Palm Sunday aligns with the prophetic expectation of Messiah presenting Himself.

Dan 9:24 "Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.

Dan 9:25 "Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.

Dan 9:26 And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah (Anointed One, Christ) shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince (the world leader, described in 2Thes 2:3-4) who is to come Shall destroy the city (Jerusalem) and the sanctuary (Holy Temple). The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

Mat 21:11 So the multitudes (crowds) said "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee."

Jesus was on the road to the purpose for which he came the cross. From the cheers of the crowd to the palm branches which celebrate victory, to the silence of the tomb, Jesus remained faithful to His mission.

Are we being faithful to our mission God has given us?

Do we know our gifts which the Holy Spirit has given us?

The King has come, this time not in force, but in humility and love, not to conquer nations, but to transform hearts and lives.

Forgive us for the times we've praised You with our lips but not followed You with our lives.

Teach us to trust You, even when we don't understand.

Help us to walk with You not just in celebration, but all the way in trials and hardships to the cross.

This Palm Sunday, let us not be like the crowd shifting with circumstances and opinions. Let us be faithful followers who recognize Jesus not just as Savior in moments of need, but as Lord of our lives.

The Triumphal Entry, Jesus Weeps over Jerusalem (Mark 11:1–10; Luke 19:28–40; John 12:12–19)

Luk 19:37 Then, as He(**Jesus**) was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen,

Luk 19:38 saying: " 'Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the LORD!' Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

Luk 19:39 And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples."

Luk 19:40 But He(**Jesus**) answered and said to them, "**I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.**"

Luk 19:41 Now as He(**Jesus**) drew near, He saw the city and wept over it,

Luk 19:42 saying, "**If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.**

Luk 19:43 "**For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side,**

Luk 19:44 "**and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.**"

While the crowd celebrates, Jesus mourns.

Jesus sees what they cannot see: their future rejection and destruction.

His heart breaks, not because He will suffer, but because they will miss the peace, salvation, He offers. This is the heart of our King. A King who doesn't just rule, but feels. A King who doesn't just lead, but loves deeply and is willing to lay down His life for others.

Jesus Cleanses the Temple (Mark 11:15–19; Luke 19:45–48; John 2:13–22)

Mat 21:12 Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves.

The King Comes to His Temple

Mal 3:1 "Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the LORD of hosts.

Mat 21:13 And He said to them, "**It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer (Isa 56:7),'** but you have made it a '**den of thieves (Jer 7:11).**'

Mat 21:14 Then the blind and the lame came to Him(Jesus) in the temple, and He healed them.

Mat 21:15 But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant (**displeased, upset angry**)

Mat 21:16 and said to Him, "Do You hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "**Yes. Have you never read, 'Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise' (Psalm 8:2)?"**

Mat 21:17 Then He(**Jesus**) left them and went out of the city to Bethany, and He lodged there.

Application:

Believe in the right King, not the Jesus we imagine—but the Jesus who is God and Man who died for our sins and rose again.

Jhn 18:36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

Palm Sunday Prophecies Jesus Fulfilled

<u>Prophecy</u>	<u>OT Reference</u>	<u>Fulfillment in Jesus</u>	<u>NT Reference</u>
The King on a donkey	Zech 9:9	Jesus enters Jerusalem	Mat 21:4–5
The Messiah arrives	Dan 9:24–26	Jesus Messiah Passover	Mat 21:1–11
People praise the King	Psalms 118:25–26	Crowds shout "Hosanna"	Mat 21:9
The Messiah is rejected	Isaiah 53:3	Jesus rejected and crucified	Mat 27:22–23
The King comes to temple	Malachi 3:1	Jesus cleans temple	Mat 21:12

What Did the Cross Accomplish for Us?

<u>What the Cross Did</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Scripture</u>
Forgiveness of Sin	Our sins were paid for and removed	Isaiah 53:5
Payment in Full (Ransom)	Jesus took our place and paid our debt	Mat 20:28
Reconciliation with God	Brought back into relationship with God	Rom 5:10
Victory Over Sin & Death	Sin and death no longer have final power	Col 2:14–15
Justification	We are declared righteous before God	Cor 5:21
God's Love Revealed	The cross shows how deeply God loves us	John 3:16
New Life	We are no longer slaves to sin—changed	Rom 6: