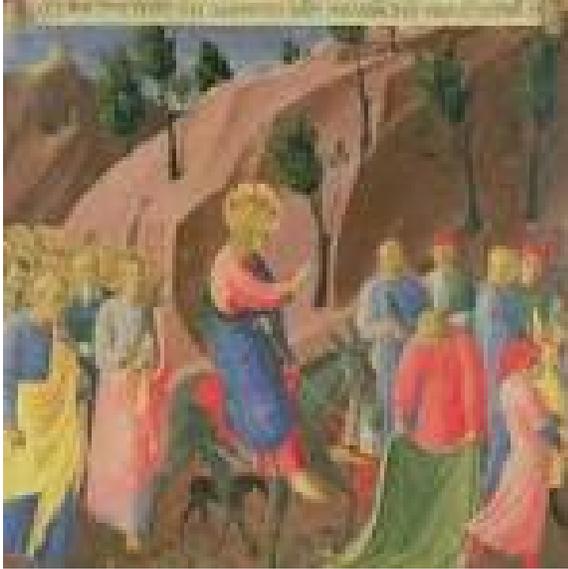


PALM SUNDAY / SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

Now Is the Hour When the Son of Man Is Glorified



Background: Last week before Christ raised Lazarus from the dead, Christ told his disciples we must go to Jerusalem.. Most of the disciples objected, telling Christ “*they almost stoned you the last we were there.*” Only Thomas supported Christ saying “*let's go and be ready to die with you.*” This Sunday, Christ entered Jerusalem on a donkey and its foal, rather than a war horse. Even so, this show He was recognized as the King of Kings, though many were hoping for an earthly kingdom. However, the ride definitely already meant that Christ was declaring victory over sin, death and the power of the devil. That the Jewish leaders would later demand his execution was necessary because the price to pay for our sins was very expensive—the blood from the unblemished Lamb of God. So with all humbleness and humility, we are able

Christ's Entry into Jerusalem Fra Angelico 1450

to receive his body and blood in the sacraments and receive God's full assurance if we trust in Christ's redeeming act on the cross, our sins are forgiven and we will live with Him eternally at the end of earthly time. Therefore, we happily serve and obey Him as we are able.

The Lessons: Isaiah 50:4–9a, Philippians 2:5–11, & John 12:12–19 (Procession), & Matthew 26:1—27:66 or Matthew 27:11–66 or John 12:20–43 “*Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming.*” He comes in gentle humility, “*sitting on a donkey's colt,*” yet also as the King of Israel “*in the name of the Lord*” (John 12:13, 15). His royal glory is faithful obedience and self-sacrificing service “*to the point of death, even death on a cross*” (Phil. 2:8). The love of God is manifested in the cross and Passion of His Son for the salvation of sinners. Since He has borne our sins and suffered our death, “*God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name*” (Phil. 2:9), and He exalts us in His resurrection. Our Lord did not hide His face “*from disgrace and spitting*” (Is. 50:6), but He trusted His God and Father, who raised Him from death and the grave and exalted Him to His right hand. This same King Jesus now comes to us in gentle humility in His Supper, where He feeds us with His body and cleanses and covers us with His blood, so that “*after his resurrection*” we also shall rise and enter the holy city (Matt. 27:52–53).