

Sermon for March 24, 2013 Palm Sunday

Luke 19:28-40 and 23:1-49

Blessings to you and peace from God the Father, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
and the Holy Spirit. Amen

For the last **6** weeks in our **Song and Study** hour Harvey has been instructing the group on the **Messianic Prophecies** which are a part of the Old Testament books of the **prophets** in the bible. Books like Isaiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Jeremiah, and Zechariah as well as the Psalms contain **many** references to the coming of Jesus and what was going to happen in his life when he **did** come to dwell among us here on earth. Of **all** of these prophecies which were written **none fits** our **first** reading, the one that we began our worship service with outside this morning, **better than** Zechariah 9:9 where we read: *“Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”* Today we **too** were shouting with loud voices, **“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven.”** The events of our first reading are **not too much** different than what Zechariah wrote about 500 years before Jesus was **even born**.

Throughout his ministry Jesus was **hesitant** to speak of His identity as the Messiah. Many times he **sternly ordered** his disciples **not to tell** anyone the truth of who he was. Yet today as he **enters** Jerusalem—the city that **kills** the prophets and **stones** those who are sent to it—he does so in a manner that would **clearly be** interpreted as an **act of the Messiah**. The crowd of disciples **jubilantly** proclaimed Jesus as the **royal** Messiah. So **why do you suppose** that Jesus now **encouraged** this acclamation; whereas before He wanted to keep it quiet? It is because **now—now** he was entering into Jerusalem to face rejection, hostility, humiliation, and death. The possibility of **misunderstanding** His messiahship was **no longer** an issue. Now that the time of his **suffering and death** was drawing near, he could demonstrate that he **truly** was the Messiah—the one whom **God had sent** to live among them.

The **climax** of the life of **God incarnate** draws to a close. What a difference a **few days** are going to make. These days ahead of us this week are the **most crucial seven days** in our Christian faith as **Jesus' passion** is an **act** that brings **salvation and eternal life** to all humanity.

In the Fellowship Hall on **Maundy** Thursday at 5:45p. we will be celebrating the Meal in the Upper Room—a time of eating a **traditional meal** of lamb, eggs, dates, nuts, fruits, and fruit juice—where members of the congregation will be reading **selected** bible verses. Then we will come here to the sanctuary for

a **final communion meal** together before Easter morning, there will be **2** foot washings demonstrating the **gospel lesson** for that evening, the **altar** will be stripped, and then we will leave **in silence** only to return the next evening—Good Friday—to have our Service of Darkness to commemorate the **death** of our beloved Lord.

I pray you will **join with us** during this **most holy** of weeks. To **worship**, to **pray**, and to **remember** the events of a week which happened so long ago. To **remember** the events of **the week** when our savior **willingly gave up** his life for us all so that **through faith in Him** we might **also triumph** over death and the grave to live in **glory** with him **eternally** in heaven. All **thanks** be to God.

AMEN.