



The Shepherd's Voice

March 19, 2013

By Fr. Joe Rees

'Palms for The King!'

“Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you shall say this: ‘The Lord has need of it.’” So those who were sent went away and found it just as He had told them. - --Luke 19:30-32.

And so we come to Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week. Jesus knows the plan from His Father. He steadily steps through each phase. There is a beginning to this and an end that He knows He must do. But for now, He remembers the prophets and great kings of Israel. Here He is telling His disciples to go into Bethphage, He knows just where this donkey that hasn't been ridden on is tied up. That donkey's life is now sacred to the Lord. This triumphal entry into Jerusalem is reminiscent of King David telling Nathan the prophet, Zadok the priest, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, to have his son Solomon ride on King David's own mule down to Gihon where they were to anoint Solomon King over Israel. “Blow the trumpet”, they were instructed, and shout “Long live King Solomon”! (1 Kings 1: 32ff). Jesus was riding into Jerusalem to be anointed King of Israel, the divine Son of David. This then would be the long-awaited Messiah to the people who came out to greet their king. “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, humble, and mounted on a donkey...”(Zech. 9:9); the prophet proclaimed centuries before Jesus. Could the prophesy been fulfilled in any other way? Indeed, Jesus riding the donkey-colt for the specific reason to publicly proclaim His chosen destiny as Son of David, Son of Man, now divine Son of God!

Of course the disciples found the colt tied exactly where Jesus said it would be! Of course, Jesus knew it had never been ridden for secular use. This was to fulfill the divine drama that was unfolding before their eyes. And directly in front of the Pharisees and religious elite's eyes! They would know what this meant...Jesus making claim to His Messiah-ship would directly confront the Chief Priests and elders who held power and control over the Temple. The stage was now being set for their murderous quest to destroy this Messianic claim. The High Priest Caiaphas eventually would say, “it was expedient for one man to die on behalf of the people”(Jn. 18:14). He couldn't have been ironically more right! Jesus knew His treasonous elders and their motivations to keep authority and power unto themselves. Never once did Caiaphas ever have personal doubts that maybe, just maybe this was the Messiah, the King of all Israel. However, the common people knew, they saw with their own eyes, the miracles He performed, the people He raised from the dead. Who else could do this but the Messiah, the King?!

Thus, the people cut down branches of palms for their King Jesus. They threw them down in front of His procession, their cloaks, their shouts of “Hosanna to the King of kings!” echoing throughout the hillside as the King rode up to the front gate of Jerusalem! I'm sure Jesus was smiling, waving to His beloved people, those who 'believed' in Him. Those would perhaps be the last smiles that would greet Him. From now on there would be skeptics and critics and evil minded men who wanted to destroy Him. This was His course. This would be the Way of the Cross. This would be the plan of the Father, to bring salvation to His people, to save them from these ugly human, idolatrous, religious elite, who turned their backs on God's very Son. And with His chastisements and

scourging, we would be saved! Not saved merely from the religious system of the day, but indeed, from the very human nature of corruptions and sin that is in every one of us. Lest we think of ourselves as somehow better than those elites; Jesus, our Messiah, has saved us from ourselves!

As we go into this Holy Week ahead, I ask one simple question... "What do you want Jesus to save you from and will you accept that and rejoice in your Savior?" Will you then come and throw down

some palm branches this Sunday to honor Him as your King! "All hail, King Jesus!"

May God give us His blessing as we remember His only begotten Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords, and seek to serve Him who served us with His very life.

Love in Christ,
Fr. Joe

Sunday Servers this week...

March 24, 2013	Palm Sunday	8:00 a.m. Service	10:15 a.m. Service
First Reader	Isaiah 45:21-25	Randy Stewart	Pat Seelig
Psalm Reader	Psalm 22:1-11	Choir	Petey Seibold
Second Reader	Philippians 2:5-11	Trish Stewart	Frances Slaughter
Intercessor		Josiah Gilman	Rob Ackerman
Lay Euch. Ministers		Jane Rost, Jean Hawk	Carolyn Blumberg, Cline Handy
Acolytes		Josiah Gilman	Rob A (C); Zachary J (T1); Dasiahmarie V (T2)
Welcomers		Jane Rost, Maureen Green	Myrna Lipnicke, Paula Sholly
Ushers		David Green, Jackie Lansing	Dink Nash, Ted Vallas, April Knowles, Ray Seibold
Vestry Person of Day	Jane Rost		
Healing Ministers		Rudy Theobald, Jan Simon	JR & Ann Fox
Announcer		Myrna Lipnicke	Anna Teixeira
Counters			Michael Murphv & Cline Handy

Donna Brayton will be leading "A Call to Holiness"

Lenten retreat on Saturday, March 23 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Sanctuary to prepare our minds, hearts, and souls for the celebration of Easter. Please call the church office to let us know you are coming.

Saturday, March 23rd - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Intergenerational Family Ministry presents

Easter Traditions

A time of fun, food, fellowship and faith-building.
Everyone is invited whatever your age.
Captivating Godly Play Narratives:
"The Faces of Jesus"
Visual and performing arts activities with arts specialists.

Faith & Family Night at Petco Park – Saturday, April 13th at 5:40 p.m. The Padres vs. the Rockies. If you would like to go to this game, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or call the church office so we can set up a group. Tickets are \$11.

Donna Brayton's class – "Signs of Our Times" will continue tonight. March 26 will be the last class. Join your church family for a potluck dinner at 6:30 and stay for Donna's wonderful teaching which begins at 7 p.m.

Sunday at Grace

Fellowship Sunday

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist w. Choir
9:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
10:00 a.m. Nursery opens
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist
w. Worship Team

Palm Branches – we are looking for palm branches of all sizes to decorate the Sanctuary and carry on Palm Sunday. If you have some palms branches that you can donate we would appreciate them. Please clean them up before bringing them.

Readings for Sunday

Isaiah 45:21-25
Psalm 22:1-11
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 22:39-23:56

We are using the English Standard Version of the Bible and the Lectionary from the Book of Common Prayer (Year C)

This Week at Grace –Mar. 19- Mar. 26, 2013

Tues. March 19

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Healing prayer & Eucharist at CHC
6:30 p.m. Lenten Potluck Fellowship Supper
7:00 p.m. Donna Brayton's Class

Wed March 20

6:10 a.m. Br. Benno's Team
8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer & Eucharist
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
3:30 p.m. Alpha Club for Kids
6:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting
6:30 p.m. Youth Group

Thurs. March 21

7:00 a.m. Bible Study
10:00 a.m. Sr. Women's Fellowship
11:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at the Oasis
7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal

Fri. March 22

Fr. Joe's day off
6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer & Eucharist at Grace

Sat. March 23

8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship
10:00 a.m. Family Friendly – "Traditions of Easter"
10:00 a.m. A Call to Holiness –
Contemplative Prayer Retreat

Sun. March 24

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Choir
9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Adult Forum
10:00 a.m. Nursery opens
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Worship Team
10:15 a.m. Children's Church
10:45 a.m. Coffee & fellowship

Mon. March 25

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer

Tues. March 26

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Healing Prayer & Eucharist at CHC
6:30 p.m. Potluck Fellowship Fellowship Supper
7:00 p.m. Donna Brayton's Class

Rector's Bible Study

Tuesdays

11:30 a.m.

Fr. Joe is leading the group through a study of the Book of Isaiah. Everyone is welcome.
B.Y.O.L. (Bring your own lunch)

Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.
Morning Prayer At Grace Anglican
All are welcome to attend.

Weekly – There are over 25 small groups meeting during the week. Check our newsletter for a list of all the groups or you can find the list on our website: www.graceanglicanchurch.com.

Save the date!

Mar. 19 Donna Brayton's Class
Mar. 20 Br. Benno's Team – 6:15 a.m.
Mar. 20 Vestry Meeting
Mar. 23 Contemplative Prayer Retreat 10-1
Mar. 23 Traditions of Easter – Families 10-1
Mar. 24 Palm Sunday services at 8 and 10:15 a.m.
Mar. 25 Stations of the Cross at Prince of Peace Abbey – 3:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.
Mar. 27 Tenebrae Service at CHC – 7:00 p.m.
Mar. 28 Maundy Thursday – Foot Washing service
Mar. 28 All Night Prayer Vigil –9:00 p.m.-6:00 a.m.
Mar. 29 Good Friday Services – Noon and 7:00 p.m.
Mar. 30 Holy Saturday/Great Vigil of Easter 7 p.m.
Mar. 31 Easter Sunday – Services at 8 & 10:15 a.m.
Apr. 5-7 "Rooted"-Youth Min. at Green Oak Ranch
Apr. 10 Soaking Prayer
Apr. 13 Prayers & Squares – 9:30 a.m.
Apr. 13 Saturday Pizza & Praise – San Marcos
Apr. 21 Family Friendly Leaders Meet – Noon – 2
May 3 Anglican Men's Retreat at Forest Home