

CITYWEST CHURCH

PALM SUNDAY 2026

29.03.2026 10 AM

After telling this story, Jesus went on toward Jerusalem, walking ahead of his disciples. 29 As he came to the towns of Bethphage and Bethany on the Mount of Olives, he sent two disciples ahead. 30 “Go into that village over there,” he told them. “As you enter it, you will see a young donkey tied there that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. 31 If anyone asks, ‘Why are you untying that colt?’ just say, ‘The Lord needs it.’”

32 So they went and found the colt, just as Jesus had said. 33 And sure enough, as they were untying it, the owners asked them, “Why are you untying that colt?”

34 And the disciples simply replied, “The Lord needs it.” 35 So they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their garments over it for him to ride on.

36 As he rode along, the crowds spread out their garments on the road ahead of him. 37 When he reached the place where the road started down the Mount of Olives, all of his followers began to shout and sing as they walked along, praising God for all the wonderful miracles they had seen.

38

“Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the LORD!
Peace in heaven, and glory in highest heaven!”

39 But some of the Pharisees among the crowd said, “Teacher, rebuke your followers for saying things like that!”

40 He replied, “If they kept quiet, the stones along the road would burst into cheers!”

Jesus Weeps over Jerusalem

41 But as he came closer to Jerusalem and saw the city ahead, he began to weep.

42 “How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes. 43 Before long your enemies will build ramparts against your walls and encircle you and close in on you from

every side. 44 They will crush you into the ground, and your children with you. Your enemies will not leave a single stone in place, because you did not recognize it when God visited you.”

Luke 19:28-44 (NLT)

Palm Sunday is often remembered as a moment of celebration—crowds, palm branches, praise, and excitement. But it is far more than a historical moment or a liturgical tradition. It is a revelation of who Jesus Christ is, why He came, and how we are invited to respond.

This is not just the Sunday before Easter. This is the beginning of the most significant week in human history.

A Humble King

As Jesus Christ approaches Jerusalem, He intentionally orchestrates a moment that is both prophetic and deeply symbolic:

“Go into that village... you will see a young donkey... untie it and bring it here... say, ‘The Lord needs it.’” (Luke 19:30–31)

This is not random. This is intentional fulfillment.

Hundreds of years earlier, the prophet Zechariah declared:

“Your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey.

Zechariah 9:9 (NLT)

Kings in the ancient world rode horses into battle. But this King rides a donkey. Not in arrogance—but in humility. Not to conquer by force—but to bring salvation through sacrifice.

Palm Sunday reveals the nature of His kingship:

- *Not political domination*
- *Not military uprising*
- *But humble, peaceful, saving authority*

A Week that carries eternal weight.

The final week of Jesus Christ's earthly ministry begins here. And the Gospels devote disproportionate attention to it.

Across Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, nearly a third, and in John nearly half, of the narrative focuses on this final week.

That tells us something: this moment matters deeply.

Every step toward Jerusalem is intentional. Every interaction is loaded with meaning. Every word, every action, is moving toward the cross.

Palm Sunday is not the beginning of a celebration; it is the beginning of a sacrifice.

The meaning of Hosanna

As the crowds gather, they cry out:

“Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in highest heaven!”

Luke 19:38 (NLT)

*And the word that echoes through the streets is **Hosanna**.*

Hosanna means: “Save now.”

It is both a cry of praise and a cry of desperation.

The people were longing for rescue, but many were expecting political deliverance. They wanted a king who would overthrow Rome.

But Jesus Christ had come to address a deeper captivity—the bondage of sin, separation from God, and the need for ultimate redemption.

Palm Sunday reminds us:

- *We don't just need improved circumstances*
- *We need salvation*
- *We need a Savior King*

Fulfillment hidden in plain sight.

What the crowd did not realize is that this moment aligned with an ancient pattern established in Passover.

In Moses' time, God gave instructions:

While the Israelites were still in the land of Egypt, the LORD gave the following instructions to Moses and Aaron: **2** “From now on, this month will be the first month of the year for you. **3** **Announce to the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each family must choose a lamb or a young goat for a sacrifice, one animal for each household.** **4** If a family is too small to eat a whole animal, let them share with another family in the neighborhood. Divide the animal according to the size of each family and how much they can eat. **5** The animal you select must be a one-year-old male, either a sheep or a goat, with no defects.

6 “Take special care of this chosen animal until the evening of the fourteenth day of this first month. Then the whole assembly of the community of Israel must slaughter their lamb or young goat at twilight.

Exodus 12:1-6 (NLT)

The lamb was selected on the 10th day and examined before being sacrificed on the 14th day.

Now consider the timing:

- *Jesus Christ enters Jerusalem around the 10th day of the month*
- *He is being “presented” in the city*
- *Observed, questioned, tested, and ultimately found without fault*

Unbeknownst to the crowd, the true Lamb was being revealed.

This is why John the Baptist declared:

“Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

John 1:29 (NLT)

Palm Sunday is not just the arrival of a King, it is the presentation of the Lamb.

Once and for all, sacrifice

The significance becomes even clearer in the New Testament:

But our High Priest offered himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time. Then he sat down in the place of honor at God's right hand.

Hebrews 10:12 (NLT)

Unlike the repeated sacrifices of the Old Testament, Jesus Christ offers Himself once—for all people, for all time.

“I will never again remember their sins and lawless deeds.”

Hebrews 10:17 (NLT)

Palm Sunday is pointing forward to the cross, where:

- *Sin is dealt with*
- *Separation is healed*
- *Access to God is restored*

This is not partial salvation. This is complete redemption.

The challenge of Palm Sunday

The Pharisees demand silence:

But some of the Pharisees among the crowd said, “Teacher, rebuke your followers for saying things like that!”

40 He replied, “If they kept quiet, the stones along the road would burst into cheers!”

Luke 19:39-40 (NLT)

Worship is not optional in the presence of the King. Creation itself recognizes Him.

Palm Sunday confronts us with a question:

Will we recognize Him for who He truly is?

*Not just a miracle worker.
Not just a moral teacher.
Not just a historical figure.*

But: King, Lamb, Savior, and Lord

Palm Sunday is a moment of invitation.

The crowd cried, “Hosanna—save now.”

And in many ways, that same cry still echoes today.

Because the question is not whether Jesus Christ is King—the question is whether we will receive Him as King.

Palm Sunday reminds us:

- *He came humbly*
- *He fulfilled prophecy*
- *He revealed God’s heart*
- *He moved toward the cross*
- *He offered salvation once and for all*

So today, we don’t just remember a moment in history, we respond to a living King.

Hosanna. Save now. And we recognize that in Him, salvation has already come.

CONNECT GROUP QUESTIONS

Jesus didn’t come the way people expected—He came in humility and peace.

Where is Jesus asking you to trust His way, even when it looks different to what you hoped for?

“Hosanna” means “save now”—a cry from the heart.

What do you need Jesus to save, heal, or restore in your life right now?

Have you brought that honestly before Him, and are you open to how He wants to answer?

The crowd praised Jesus, but many didn't truly follow Him.

What is one step of faith or obedience you sense God calling you to take this week?