

Sermon for March 29, 2026, Palm Sunday
Texts: *Psalm 118:25–26; Philippians 2:5–8 ; Luke 19:37–40*

Title: The King Who Comes in Victory

Introduction

Today the Christian church throughout the world remembers the event we call Palm Sunday. On this day we recall how Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem while crowds gathered along the road, spreading their cloaks and waving palm branches in celebration. Their voices rose with joy as they proclaimed, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" For the people of Jerusalem, the moment was filled with excitement and hope, as many believed the long-awaited Messiah had finally arrived.

Yet Palm Sunday is more than a joyful celebration; it is a significant turning point in the story of Christ. This entrance into Jerusalem marks the beginning of Holy Week, the journey that will lead to suffering and the cross. What the crowd did not fully understand was that Jesus was not simply arriving in the city. But he was deliberately moving toward the fulfillment of God's saving plan. As we reflect on this sacred moment, we discover important lessons about the character of Christ, the response of faithful believers, and the deeper meaning of the path Jesus chose to walk.

First Lesson: Jesus Moves Toward His Final Victory

The first lesson we learn from Palm Sunday is that Jesus entered Jerusalem with profound spiritual determination. He was not merely participating in a celebration arranged by the crowds. He was moving deliberately toward the most difficult moment of his earthly life. Jesus knew what awaited him in Jerusalem—

rejection, suffering, betrayal, and the cross. Yet he did not turn away. Instead, he advanced with unwavering purpose, fully aware that this path would lead to the decisive victory of God.

Earlier in his life, Jesus had already confronted the power of Satan in the wilderness, where he resisted temptations that tried to divert him from God's mission. Now, as he approached Jerusalem, an even greater challenge stood before him. The cross represented the ultimate attempt of evil to defeat him through humiliation and death. Yet Jesus did not retreat. By entering Jerusalem willingly, he showed an unbreakable determination to overcome evil. What appeared to the world as defeat would become the very place where God's victory was revealed.

This lesson speaks to our own lives as servants of God. We all face moments of hardship, discouragement, and the temptation to give up. Yet the example of Jesus reminds us that true victory often lies beyond struggle and perseverance. Just as Christ refused to surrender to the forces that opposed him, we are called to remain faithful in the midst of life's trials, trusting that God can reveal victory even through our challenges.

Second: Praise God Despite Our Lack of Understanding His Plan

The second lesson of Palm Sunday focuses on Jesus' rebuke to the Pharisees, who asked him to silence his followers because of their loud praise. Jesus replied, **"If these were silent, the stones would cry out,"** making it clear that praise belongs to God and cannot be suppressed. Even when people do not fully understand God's plan, expressing gratitude and worship is still the right response.

For us, this is a call to faithfully praise the Lord in our daily lives, even when we cannot see the full picture of His work. Like the crowd on that first Palm Sunday, we may not always understand the challenges, trials, or purposes God allows, yet our duty is to worship sincerely through prayer, song, and acts of devotion. By lifting our hearts in praise, we align ourselves with God's kingdom, join the ongoing chorus of faithful believers, and trust that He is at work beyond what our eyes can see.

Third: The Path of Christ Leads Through the Cross

The third lesson of Palm Sunday is that the road Jesus followed ultimately led to the cross. Within days, the same voices shouting "**Hosanna**" would cry "**Crucify him,**" yet Christ humbled himself and obeyed even to death on a cross. For believers, this teaches that following Jesus sometimes requires perseverance, sacrifice, and walking paths that are difficult and demanding. However, what may appear as loss or defeat in the eyes of the world can become the very place where God's power, grace, and ultimate victory are revealed, showing that the cross leads not to the end, but to resurrection and eternal life.

Conclusion

Palm Sunday calls us to examine how we welcome Christ into our daily lives. It is not enough to celebrate with words or gestures; following Jesus requires faithful action. Like him, we are called to persevere through challenges, resist temptation, and remain committed to God's purpose even when the path is difficult.

This Holy Week reminds us that our duty is to walk in Christ's footsteps, i.e., trusting God's plan. As we do, we participate in the victory of God's kingdom and bear witness to the life, forgiveness, and hope that Jesus brings. Amen.

