

Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020, Year A

St. Andrew's Anglican Church – Douglas, GA

The Rev. Fr. John E. Commins+ - Rector

Scripture: Luke 19:29-40

“Blessed is He Who Comes in the Name of the Lord”

I don't know about you – but I am shaken every time I read the account of Jesus and His suffering, of His arrest of His mockery of a trial, I am shaken.

Today we celebrate the triumphant entry of Jesus Christ into the City of Jerusalem, which began the week we call Holy Week – riding on the back of a colt of a donkey, which had never been ridden before. The people treated Jesus like the King that He really is – laying down cloaks in the road instead of a carpet, along with branches of palms to pave the way for His coming into the Holy City. The Gospel of Matthew describes it this way: *“The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Hosanna in the highest!””* (Matthew 21:9) Seeing Jesus exalted in such a way really ticked off and disturbed the Temple Leadership – am I being blunt – but that is the truth! Matthew says this: *“But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple area, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they were indignant.”* (Matthew 21:15) To put it simply – they had just about had enough of this Galilean getting so much attention – while they were not. He would have to die. And so as we recalled Jesus' entry this morning that event in the first century – Jesus was exalted on that day, on that Sunday – going into Jerusalem and that week – truly culminated with a supper, the Last Supper – a Passover Seder Meal on Thursday night. Shortly after He was arrested, had a mockery of a trial, and they gave Him thirty-nine lashes. The number forty is significant in Hebrew Scripture – forty days was the flood, forty days and nights Jesus was in the dessert and tempted, but they could not and would not make it forty lashes – so they gave Him thirty-nine. They gave Him a crown of thorns instead of His own crown His torture – He was ridiculed and then they made Him carry His cross. If you have ever been to Jerusalem – the way up to Golgotha is uphill. The way of the cross, the Via Dolorosa is all uphill. He had to carry that heavy cross uphill. It is just amazing. If you have walked that way you find yourself saying ‘He did that for me?’

As we prepare for Holy Week, which will truly culminate with our Good Friday Solemn Service online at noon – please speak to the Lord. Ask Him why He did this for you? I think you will be truly blessed to know how much He loves you. We look forward to the day when we see our triumphant King again.