

Palm Sunday – April 10, 2022, Year C

St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Douglas, GA

The Rev. Fr. John E. Commins+ Rector

Scripture: Luke 23:1-49

"You Are There"

There was a Television series that ran from 1953 to 1972, hosted by Walter Cronkite – which was based on these words – “all things are as they were then, only you are there.” As we were driving down to the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville the other day, I got to thinking about this old series, and what events in history I would want to be present at. One of the main events was Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem that we celebrate on Palm Sunday. For me it would be awe inspiring to be there and witness the people celebrating King Jesus as He rode into Jerusalem on the back of the foal of a donkey. This wasn’t a donkey – this was a baby. This was in fulfillment of Scripture. It was amazing that they lifted Him high up just six days before many of these same people would be calling for His death – shouting “crucify Him, crucify Him” instead of, *"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"* (Luke 19:38) Jesus rode down the Mount of Olives into Jerusalem on that Sunday, to people lining the street with their cloaks and palm branches. This was in fulfillment of the Prophet Zechariah, who wrote, *"Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."* (Zechariah 9:9) I would venture to say that probably many of us present today might choose this event to witness and share.

I also thought that I am not sure that I would have the courage that Jesus’ Mother, Mary, Mary Magdalene, the Apostle John, and some others, had to have been at the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus. I mean, Jesus’ apostles sure didn’t, for they were in hiding. Think about it, many have found it difficult to even watch the graphic movie, *The Passion of the Christ*, they will fast forward that part, let alone be present and witness this horrific event.

We are truly blessed, because we know what is coming next Sunday, the miraculous and powerful Resurrection of Jesus. He walked out of that borrowed tomb, and was seen by many until His ascension to the Father, as recorded in the first chapter of the Book of Acts. Jesus told them, *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. *"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."* (Acts 1:8-11) Now. If it were possible, that is another event that I would love to have witnessed. Imagine, you are there!