

WELCOMING JESUS THE KING

*"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"
Matt. 21:9*

REFLECTION

Prior to the Passion Week we read from Matt. 21:1-11 that Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey with His disciples and the people exclaiming these words to welcome Him. These words acknowledged that Jesus was the promised Messiah who come to deliver His people. They shouted "Hosanna" which, loosely translated, meant "Save us, O Lord, we pray!" Jesus indeed came to save and deliver His people but not from the hands of their oppressors then, the Roman Empire. He came to die and shed His blood on the cross so that everyone, not just the Jews, may be set free from under the bondage to sin, Satan and his evil schemes. There was a bigger agenda and unseen reality in the spiritual realm that no earthly political power and means could address. Only Jesus could, and by His way. The people were not expecting His agenda and they were not ready for His way. Their words of jubilation said one thing, but their intentions and actions spoke otherwise. They crucified Him finally. Nevertheless, Jesus foresaw it and willingly died on the cross for all mankind out of love and compassion.

Take the time to read Matt. 21: 1-11 slowly again and reflect on the following questions:

- How would you welcome Jesus into your life, situation, circumstances, etc.? What would you say to Him? Do you have any agenda for Him?
- As Jesus comes, what do you think He would say or do in your life? Would you allow Him to come with His agenda and ways to save or deliver you? Are you willing?

Jesus is the gentle Messiah who is loving and compassionate, who knows what is best for all of us. He does not come to condemn us but to save us through Himself (Jn. 3:17). Would you be willing to embrace Him, His love and His ways for you?

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You are the Messiah who truly saves. Forgive us when we so often turn to the world instead of turning to You. You alone are the Life-giver and Saviour of our souls. Grant us a willing spirit to surrender and submit to Your will and ways so that we may walk in Your light and life. Amen.

SUPPLICATION

- Thank God for your salvation in Jesus Christ. Jesus saved you that you may be His alone. Ask God for a heart and spirit that is humble and submissive to the working of the Holy Spirit in you. Admit to God if you know of any streak of pride or stubbornness within you and surrender that to Him. Invite the Holy Spirit to show you what He wants to do in you and through you, and permit Him to have His way. Then rest in God's grace and compassion which is gentle and peaceful.
- Pray for the Church worldwide - leaders, members and visitors - that there be a reawakening and realignment to God's purpose, will and ways. God has founded His Church to be His witnesses - of His holiness, love, grace, salvation and life. Pray for God to visit His Church once again to do His work in and through His body. May God's Church be able to recognize Him whenever He enters into the sanctuary and community and be found ready to respond to His visitation. May the Church not reject Him but welcome Him willingly.
- Pray for those who have yet to know Jesus. Some may only know of Him because of Christmas. Others have never heard of Him. Pray that they may have the opportunity to hear the message of Good Friday and Easter. Pray for open hearts and minds to believe and faith to be birthed in their spirit so that they may receive Jesus as their personal Lord and Saviour. Pray for God to send out His labourers to speak of who Jesus is and what He has done for all of us.
- Continue to pray for the well-being of many who have been affected by the COVID19 pandemic – loss of jobs, finances, relationships, physical, mental & emotional health, identity, etc. Pray for the vaccines to be accessible to everyone, especially those in third world countries. Pray for the Spirit of God to rule the hearts and will of men so that there be mutual love and concern, fairness and kindness to guide every human interactions.

*"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."
Jn. 10:10*

If you need any prayer or pastoral care support, kindly contact the pastoral care team via:

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