



Matthew 21:1-11 New Revised Standard Version

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

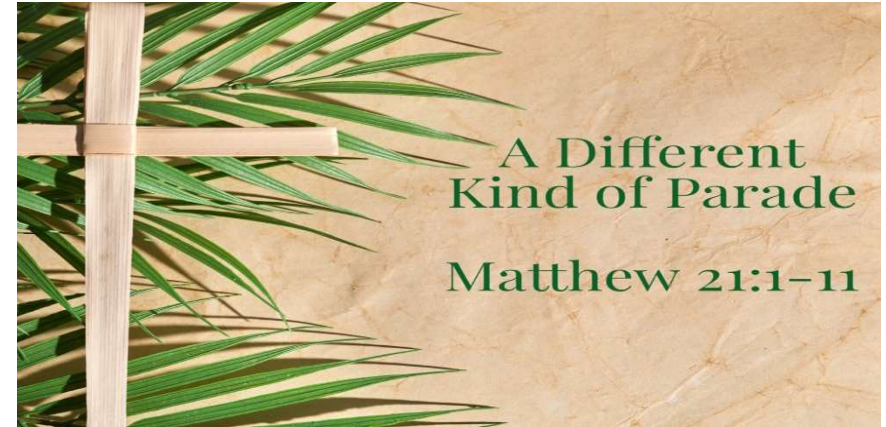
⁵“Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”



“Palm Sunday tells us that it is the cross that is the true tree of life.” Pope Benedict XVI

Who doesn't love a good parade? From the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade to one associated with a local festival, parades bring out the best in people. They are by no means sad occasions. The bands, classic cars, clowns (for some), and floats, amongst other things, bring smiles to faces of all ages. One can sense the jubilation as the crowds flooded the streets of Jerusalem to welcome the one who was “coming in the name of the Lord.” Could this be the moment that at last Jesus would take charge and bring judgment upon those who oppressed God's people? No one knew for certain, but this seemed as good a time as any for the Messiah to reign supreme. Whereas most parades have a planning committee which works countless hours developing a theme, recruiting sponsors, and registering participants, the one in today's text was impromptu. No advertising had occurred. No one had shown up early to reserve a special seat. The people saw Jesus, recalled the prophetic words of Zechariah 9, and began to respond accordingly. They knew what they wanted, but didn't exactly realize they needed so much more.

- 1. Jesus is the perfect picture of humility in the face of power.**
- 2. Jesus came in order to offer a different form of salvation.**
- 3. Jesus' presence stirs more than ordinary human emotions.**

Prayer Pebble: Lord, help me not to be a face in the crowd. May my cry for salvation be more than superficial or temporary. Help me to discover the deeper cleansing of which I have need.