

# Palm Sunday

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## IS HE YOUR KING?

**READ: MATTHEW 21:1-11**

### INTRODUCTION

As Jesus enters Jerusalem, He does so deliberately and symbolically, presenting Himself publicly as King. Yet this moment is filled with tension—because while the crowds celebrate Him, they misunderstand the kind of King He truly is. Jesus instructs His disciples to bring a colt that has never been ridden (Luke 19:30). This is not convenience—it is the fulfillment of prophecy: “Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey” (Zechariah 9:9). Unlike earthly rulers who arrive with power and military strength, Jesus comes in humility and peace. His kingdom is not built through force, but through sacrifice (John 18:36).

The crowd responds with excitement, laying down cloaks and palm branches, shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Mark 11:9–10; Psalm 118:25–26). “Hosanna” means “save us now,” revealing their expectation that Jesus would deliver them—likely from Roman oppression. However, their understanding of salvation is incomplete. They are looking for political rescue, while Jesus has come to bring spiritual redemption from sin (Matthew 1:21).

This tension is crucial. The same crowd that praises Him will, within days, cry out for His crucifixion (Luke 23:21). Their expectations of Jesus do not align with God’s plan. This serves as a warning: it is possible to celebrate Jesus outwardly while misunderstanding Him at a deeper level.

Luke’s account adds a significant moment—Jesus weeps over Jerusalem (Luke 19:41–44). Even in His triumphal entry, Jesus is not swept up in the celebration. He sees clearly what lies ahead: rejection, judgment, and destruction. He laments that the people did not recognize “the things that make for peace.” True peace is found in Him (John 14:27), but many miss it because they are looking for something else.

The Pharisees, offended by the praise Jesus is receiving, tell Him to rebuke His disciples. Jesus responds, “If these were silent, the very stones would cry out” (Luke 19:40). This moment underscores a profound truth: Jesus is worthy of praise whether people acknowledge Him or not. Creation itself testifies to His glory (Psalm 19:1). Palm Sunday ultimately reveals both the identity of Jesus and the condition of the human heart. Jesus is the promised King, the humble Savior, and the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).

## **PALM SUNDAY: IS HE YOUR KING?**

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Yet people often approach Him with their own expectations rather than submitting to who He truly is. The entry into Jerusalem is not just a celebration—it is the beginning of the path to the cross. The King has come, but He comes to die (Philippians 2:8).

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What does Jesus' choice to enter Jerusalem on a donkey reveal about the kind of King He is?
2. Why do you think the crowd misunderstood Jesus' mission? In what ways can we do the same today?
3. What is the significance of the crowd shouting "Hosanna"? What does this reveal about their expectations?
4. Why does Jesus weep over Jerusalem, even as He is being praised? What does this show about His heart?
5. How can we ensure that our worship of Jesus is rooted in truth and not just emotion or expectation?

### **WRAP UP**

Palm Sunday confronts us with a question: Will we receive Jesus on His terms, or only when He meets our expectations? The crowd welcomed a King, but not the cross. Yet it is through the cross that true salvation comes. As we reflect on this passage, let us recognize Jesus not just as a King to celebrate, but as a Savior to trust and follow. The King has come—and He is worthy of our full allegiance.

# Resurrection Sunday

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## REDEEMED BY THE BLOOD

**READ: 1 PETER 1:17-21**

### INTRODUCTION

In 1 Peter 1:17–21, Peter anchors the believer’s hope in the finished work of Christ, pointing both to His sacrifice and His resurrection as the foundation of our salvation. Peter begins by reminding believers to live with reverent fear before God, who judges impartially (v. 17; Romans 2:6–11). This is not a fear of condemnation for those in Christ (Romans 8:1), but a sober awareness of God’s holiness. The resurrection does not diminish God’s justice—it magnifies the cost required to satisfy it. He then explains the nature of our redemption: “You were ransomed... not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ” (vv. 18–19). The language of ransom points to the freeing of a slave. Humanity is enslaved to sin (John 8:34), and no earthly payment could secure release. Only the blood of Christ—the sinless Lamb—was sufficient (Hebrews 9:12–14). This draws directly from the Passover imagery (Exodus 12), where the blood of the lamb spared God’s people from judgment. Jesus is the greater Passover Lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7).

Peter emphasizes that this plan was not an afterthought: Christ was “foreknown before the foundation of the world” (v. 20). The cross and resurrection were always part of God’s redemptive plan (Acts 2:23). Easter, then, is not just a historical event—it is the unfolding of God’s eternal purpose to save sinners. The resurrection is central in verse 21: “God... raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.” The resurrection is God’s validation of Christ’s sacrifice (Romans 4:25). Without it, there is no assurance of forgiveness, no victory over death (1 Corinthians 15:17). But because Jesus lives, our faith is not wishful thinking—it is grounded in a risen Savior.

This passage holds together two essential truths: the cost of redemption and the certainty of hope. The cross shows us the seriousness of sin; the resurrection shows us the power of God to overcome it. Together, they call believers to live differently—not in empty ways inherited from the past, but in holiness, confidence, and hope. Easter, therefore, is not merely something to celebrate—it is something to live in. If we have been redeemed at such a cost and raised to new life through Christ (Romans 6:4), then our lives should reflect that reality.

## **RESURRECTION SUNDAY: REDEEMED BY THE BLOOD**

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### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What does Peter mean by being “ransomed”? How does this shape your understanding of salvation?
2. Why is it significant that our redemption was not with silver or gold, but with the blood of Christ?
3. How does the resurrection confirm that Jesus’ sacrifice was sufficient?
4. What does it mean to live with “fear” before God as a believer?
5. How should the reality of the resurrection shape the way we live day to day?

### **WRAP UP**

Easter reminds us that our salvation is both costly and secure. Jesus was not only crucified—He was raised. His blood paid the price for sin, and His resurrection guarantees our hope. Because of this, our faith is not fragile, and our hope is not uncertain. We have been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ and raised into a living hope through His resurrection. Let us live as people who truly believe that the tomb is empty—and that everything has changed because of it.