



Sermon Brief
10th April 2022

Luke 19: 28 – 40

- For those who are expecting to hear children's hosannas and a royal parade this Sunday – you might be a little disappointed to hear what Luke has to say about this Palm Sunday.
- Luke does not have any of those in his gospel. There are no children unless you count Jesus's reference to the children that would be killed in Jerusalem's upcoming destruction.
- There is not a single palm leaf to be found in Luke and it was Jesus's disciples who laid out their coats on the road and sang that famous statement "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord".
- In Luke's presentation of the Palm Sunday story, one may be justified to think that this is not a royal parade. More like a funeral procession. there is darkness and sadness about this parade.
- The church has too often tried hard to hide this sadness, this Lenten darkness in the bright and joyful celebration of the Palm Sunday that we are most familiar with, or more to the point, the Palm Sunday we prefer.
- This Palm Sunday, according to the Lectionary, we are invited to look deeply into the eyes of Jesus and not the peripherals that we often associate with Palm Sunday.
- We need to see the sadness in his eyes and the heartbreak that undergirds our celebrations. Because, if we do that, we may find a different way of knowing and identifying with our Lord.
- How often have we attended a worship service that is planned as a joyful celebration where we sing the joyful songs of praise with wrenching, aching hearts?
- How often have we attended worship services where both the elderly and the young are singing the praises of God with voices that are choking with their secret pain with puddles of tears forming in their eyes.
- This triumphal entry is proceeding to the cross, and we are right to celebrate Jesus as our King, but it also reminds us how much our salvation cost to the Lord. This royal parade is akin to a funeral procession.
- This Palm Sunday, Luke invites us to look deeply into the eyes of Jesus, where we feel and know that the mixture of glory and pain, joy and sorrow, that same Lord is pointing us forward to a day when the promise will come true: he will wipe away every tear from our eyes.

