

## **PALM SUNDAY 2009 SERMON – April 5, 2009**

### ***King of kings – A Joyful Reception for the King***

By Pastor Vern Oestmann

**When Queen Elizabeth II was planning her coronation in 1953, great detail was given to everything for that special day. Seventeen months of planning went into detailing what the Queen wore and to where everyone would sit when the time for the coronation of the new Queen of England took place.**

**When Jesus entered into Jerusalem on his road to coronation, the only details were for a donkey to be acquired for His arrival. However, God, the Father, had made the plans for this entry into Jerusalem and the coronation of Jesus before the foundation of the world. Thousands of years had past and many kings of Israel and Judah had reigned before Jesus came to be coronated as the King of the Jews.**

**With joyful sounds of “Hosanna!” and “Hosanna in the highest!” being sung and shouted, Jesus entered into Jerusalem with a joy-filled reception. Palm branches and cloaks were laid on the paths in front of the donkey that Jesus rode. People were lining the streets of Jerusalem in anticipation of what Jesus would do. However, his arrival was not quite what they expected. He did not come to overthrow the Roman government. He came instead to defeat the old wicked foe – the enemy of death and decay – the fallen angel of long ago. Jesus came for one purpose – to destroy Satan’s oppression of God’s people. Jesus came as a humble servant of God, not a mighty king to rule the divided kingdom of Israel, but to unite the brokenness of relationship between God and man and bring peace.**

**The humble coronation of Jesus took place to fulfill the prophecy of Zechariah. The humble coronation of Jesus was announcing a reign of peace – not as the world would know peace. The reign of peace Jesus was bringing was peace between God and man – the reconciliation peace between a perfect God and imperfect mankind.**

**The humble coronation of Jesus was the coronation of the Son of God humbling himself unto death – death on the cross – being crowned with a crown of thorns – not a royal crown made of gold and precious jewels.**

**The humble coronation of Jesus was the servant who made himself nothing so all who would believe in him would become what God had intended for them to be – holy in His sight.**

**Turn to Hymn 441 (LSB) Ride On, Ride On In Majesty. Look at the verses. They describe the majestic ride of Jesus on this festive day. The reality is that the shouts of “Hosanna” would later be the shouts of “Crucify Him!” His throne would be the cross where he would rule his subjects – all the world – with mercy and grace.**

**The coronation of Jesus would eventually be that of majesty at the right hand of the father. With the victorious resurrection from the grave, Jesus would take his rightful throne in heaven above. The joyful reception song will be, “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise.”**

**And who is praising and singing and joyfully rejoicing? All the saints whose robes were washed in the blood of the Lamb – the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world – the Lamb of God, Jesus.**

**As we enter this holy of holiest week, we do so with our eyes focused on the Lamb who gathers with his disciples in the Upper Room to share in the Passover meal of the Paschal Lamb. On that night our king Jesus offered up the bread with thanksgiving and said, “Take and it, this is my body given into death for you.” The cup He shared with them was the cup of blessing as He said, “Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the blood of the new covenant shed for you for the forgiveness of all your sin.”**

**Following that night of prayer, betrayal, arrest and denial, Jesus is condemned to death – death on the cross known as crucifixion. Here the Lamb is slaughtered. Isaiah wrote centuries before, “He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.”**

**On Easter we will sing, “This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia! Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.”**

**But for today, we are involved in the joyful reception for the King of kings and the Lord of lords who humbly rode into Jerusalem to begin his humble coronation and eternal reign over sin, death, and the power of Satan.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty! Amen.**