**05 April 2020**

**John 12: 12-19**

**The Humble King**

Today is Palm Sunday in honor of Jesus riding on a donkey and entering Jerusalem as King. Also, today is known as the Sunday of the Passion, which marks the beginning of the Holy Week.

Do you remember Palm Sunday last year? On that Sunday, we marched inside the sanctuary, waving palm branches, praising and singing. And we shouted loudly.

"Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna!" "Hosanna!"

In today's text John 12 it says that, many people came out and waved palm branches to celebrate Jesus. Palm trees were special to the Jews. Palm branches were used in the Feast of Tabernacles (Lev 23:40). And later it represented victory and salvation.

Around 141 B.C. People waved palm branches to celebrate the victory of Maccabee Simon, who returned after defeating the Syrian army. According to Maccabee, there was a great celebration in the city because of the victory. Simon and his men entered the fort singing hymns of praise and thanksgiving while carrying palm branches and playing harps, cymbals, and lyres. (1 Maccabees 13:51)

Palm branches were also used to celebrate the rededication of the temple in 165 BC (2 Maccabee 10: 7).

In the book of Revelation, countless people are standing in front of Jesus. They are wearing white robes and are holding palm branches in their hands and shouting in the last days of salvation. "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." (Revelation 7: 9-10) They hold palm branches and sing praises for their salvation.

Jesus truly triumphed over sin, Satan, and death.

So, on Palm Sunday, today, we celebrate the victory of Jesus' kingship and sin and death by waving palm branches. Jesus is the King. He is your King and my King. He is indeed the King of the whole world.

However, there is an adjective used to express Him. It's the word 'humble’. When describing a king, it is usually expressed as a great king, a powerful king, or an amazing king. However, when we express Jesus in the Bible, we call him a humble king rather than a great king.

Why does the Bible introduce him as a humble king? Because, He did not live in a beautiful royal palace. Instead, he lived with ordinary people in the village. Even he has no place to lay his head. "(Matthew 8:20)

He was not with the nobles. Instead, he made friends with the poor, the sick, and the weak. He was not served. Instead, he lived a life of service. In Matthew 20:28 said, "Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

He came as King; he did not wear a crown of gold but wear a crown of thorns. He did not sit in a high place but hung on a cross for our salvation.

Jesus is the King. And he is a humble king. We saw it at Christmas. We saw a baby born, not in a palace, but in a stable. On Palm Sunday, we see it again. Jesus comes into Jerusalem on a donkey in a way that proclaims his humility-not his power.

This Holy Week, we will see it again and again. Jesus is going to wash his disciples' feet, gathering his disciples to share bread and wine the true body and blood, praying in the garden of Gethsemane, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will. "(Matthew 26:39). And then we will see Jesus get arrested, mocked, beaten, and hung on a cross to die. To die for our sin and our salvation.

On Palm Sunday, the King, the humble King is riding on a donkey into Jerusalem. He obeys his Father's plan of redemption and goes to the cross. And the King will die to save his servants. The humble King is willing to give his life to save his people.

Because of him, we are no longer slaves of sin.

Because of him, death does not control us.

Because of him, there is no condemnation.

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." (Romans 8: 1)

And we become a new creation in the humble King Jesus Christ. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Paul encourages us to be like Jesus. Philippians 2: 5-8 "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, And he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!"

Brothers and sisters, as we follower of Jesus, we imitate Jesus and follow his way of life. we serve God as Jesus did, and we serve our neighbors. Amen.