

SALVATION'S SACRED SEASON

Please read Matthew 21:1-11

It was 33 AD, but no one knew it except the One sitting atop the donkey. The one who changed the times from BC to AD, at His Incarnation, was about to be led like a sheep to the slaughter, and no one knew it except the Man mounted on a donkey's colt. Six days later, the time-altering God would hang from His cross, laden with the sins of the world. In eight days, He would shatter the teeth of death. No one there was aware of the AD holy history about to be revealed, except the One being praised with, "Hosanna to the Son of David" (v9). His love was about to effect a profound rescue that would be life-changing for you. Salvation's Holy Week was beginning to unfold in accord with the Lord's eternal plans.

Brethren, how you needed, and yet need, this triumphant Passion entry and impending resurrection of Christ from the dead. For, even though you know the conclusion of Passion Week and its salvation-working events, you still foster an unholy life that does not shout, "Blessed is the King, who comes in the Name of the Lord" (v 9). Rather, your attention often parallels that of the Lord's enemies who did not rejoice in Him that day. "Look, the whole world has gone after Him" (Jn 12:19) they jealously cried with voices steeped in intent to kill.

You and I, too, live, at times, as if we had no idea that the Christ has appeared for our deliverance. We, to this day, mark out an unholy history in stubborn disobedience, deserving the wrath of the Son of David. *Humble Christ of the Father's steadfast love, have mercy on me!*

Listen: This donkey-riding Savior has changed history for you. The times changed in your life at the instant of your Baptism. At that second in time, wrath changed to mercy for you. At the Font of the Waters, your Father's anger over your sin was drowned in a flood of His grace, against which your sin could not prevail. At the

application of Divine Water, your walk toward eternal fire was suddenly, and forever, reversed to a destiny that would land you in the Holy City, the New Jerusalem. Holy Week, the most sacred time of the year, with its cross and empty tomb, guarantees you the forgiveness of all your sins and the guarantee of an eternal resurrection, precisely like that of Jesus' Resurrection! Because the times have changed for you, your relationship with the Heavenly Father is perfect through the life-changing sacrifice of David's Son, delivered to you in full in His Baptism, in His Word and in His Holy Week Sacrament of Immortality.

Mark this: This change cannot be reversed but by rejection, ingratitude, and unbelief, for, "The gifts and the call of God are irrevocable" (Rom 11:29).

The magnificent was about to happen, no one knowing it but the King. Seeing Holy Week from AD's side of history, you rejoice with unutterable and exalted joy, for you know that the outcome of your faith in the times-changing and life-saving Son of Man is the salvation of your soul (1 Peter 1:9). The times have changed for you. So shall it be forever.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, March 25, Holy Communion being celebrated at both services.

Pastor John Hamer, Emeritus
John 5:24

