**Isaiah 50:4-9 (ESV)**

[4] The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. [5] The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward. [6] I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. [7] But the Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame. [8] He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me. [9] Behold, the Lord God helps me; who will declare me guilty? Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

**Philip. 2:5-11 (ESV)**

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, [6] who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, [7] but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, [8] he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. [9] Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, [10] so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, [11] and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**John 12:12-19 (ESV)**

**12** The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. **13** So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” **14** And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, **15**  “Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!” **16**  His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. **17**  The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. **18** The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. **19** So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him.”

**“Hidden In Humility”**

Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the king of Israel, Jesus Christ our blessed Lord and Savior. Amen. The week that lays ahead before us is truly the “heartbeat” of the Church. The identity of what it means for us to be a Christian. The fundamental reason why we celebrate Jesus Christ who is above all other names. Of course, to travel along this procession of Palms Sunday means we get hit from both sides of the aisle. As St. Paul emphatically proclaims, “For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles” (1 Cor 1:22-23).

As we recognize the Passion of Jesus Christ who goes to His cross on Good Friday. One side stumbles saying that kind of focus on the suffering and death of Jesus is just too depressing. There is already enough sadness in the world. You Christians pay too much attention to sin, death, and the Devil. As we come next Sunday to Easter Morning to recognize the Jesus’ resurrection. The other side being many, if not more, will be eager to point out such foolishness. There are plenty of problems to deal with in the world. You Christians are wasting time boasting over forgiveness, eternal life, and salvation when we have to face the realities of life. Whether on one side or the other, Palm Sunday is our “Hosannas” that Jesus Christ is the king promised for all people.

1. **Who speaks during the great procession on Palm Sunday?**
2. First, the crowd gathered with eagerness.

* Passover was already at hand reflecting the focus on God’s deliverance.
* “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!”
* Jesus had recently went to the tomb of Lazarus and rose Him from the dead showing Him to be the Lord.

1. Second, the Scripture had a hope filled Word.

* This procession of Jesus Christ seated on a donkey had the better promise of God’s plan.
* The prophet Zechariah declared 500 years prior said, “Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!”
* Jesus was not coming like other earthly kings, because His authority was far from ordinary.

1. Finally, the enemies of Christ confirmed it all.

* The Pharisees were not so eager to make their words public to everyone.
* Yet, they knew who was in control saying privately, “You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him.”
* Jesus was the king of Israel and these leaders were not in control only stewards for a time.

1. **Who does not say anything during the great procession of Palm Sunday?**
2. As the king, Jesus will speak with humility.

* He freely accepts His betrayal and arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane.
* Jesus steps down to suffer at the hands of His enemies saying to Peter, “Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?” (John 18:11)
* Jesus is the Lord of Lords who comes not to be served, but goes after the world by giving His life as a ransom for many.

1. As the king, Jesus will speak to fulfill God’s Word.

* At His trial before Pontius Pilate, there was alarm over this Jewish king come to town threatening the glory of Rome.
* Pilate as the ordinary authority of man questioned Jesus who replied by a greater authority saying, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world— to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice” (John 18:37).
* Jesus more than satisfies what Scripture laid out, but His authority in being the Word made flesh is to bear the guilt of sin and be our Savior.

1. As the king, Jesus will speak from His cross for all.

* While the crowd on Good Friday had the unfriendly tune of “Crucify Him,” Christ poured out compassion in faithfulness.
* More than appealing to His Father of forgiveness for the people, the last words of Christ from the cross in the Gospel of John were, “It is finished.”
* Jesus by His death delivered all from the Law’s judgment of death and His resurrection opened to any the doors of life to an enteral kingdom.

1. **How do we figure out our place in this great procession of Palm Sunday?**

* St. John gives a clue, “His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him.”
* The hype of the crowd yields now to the confession of the Church singing Hosannas to the only salvation that comes by grace through faith in Jesus.
* Scripture fulfilled means we welcome Jesus coming before us honoring His Word of authority to forgive sins and follow Him as the Good Shepherd.
* As the enemies of Christ could not stop His entrance into Jerusalem, so baptism into Christ has let us enter into an everlasting kingdom that stands.

No taking a step backward in order to go forward, Palm Sunday tells us to go down with Christ. He alone lifts up redemption by His suffering. Lifts up the Church by His sacrifice. Lifts up you by His love. Where one way ends, a new way begins. God grant us the joy to receive this king of glory hidden in His humility now by Word and Sacrament. Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the king of Israel, Jesus Christ our blessed Lord and Savior. Amen. The peace of God that passes all understanding be with your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus to life everlasting. Amen.