

Sounds Of The Passion: Crowd Roaring

Matthew 21:1-11 (CEB)

When they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus gave two disciples a task. He said to them, "Go into the village over there. As soon as you enter, you will find a donkey tied up and a colt with it. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that their master needs them." He sent them off right away. Now this happened to fulfill what the prophet said, Say to Daughter Zion, "Look, your king is coming to you, humble and riding on a donkey, and on a colt the donkey's offspring." The disciples went and did just as Jesus had ordered them. They brought the donkey and the colt and laid their clothes on them. Then he sat on them. Now a large crowd spread their clothes on the road. Others cut palm branches off the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds in front of him and behind him shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!^[b]Hosanna in the highest!" And when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up. "Who is this?" they asked. The crowds answered, "It's the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Notes

- The city of Jerusalem was filled with people in anticipation of the Passover. As Jesus rode into the city, like a king entering his kingdom, the people roared with joy in celebration and anticipation of the Messiah.
- But as the people forgot their excitement, they went back to their ordinary lives, forgetting the celebration of Jesus' entry.
- Palm Sunday represents Christ's joyful entry into our lives, hearts, nation and world, and God invites us to respond in excitement for what God is doing here and now.

Questions

1. Imagine you were part of the crowd watching Jesus enter Jerusalem. What emotions would you have experienced? What would you have said to others about witnessing Jesus' entry?
2. What is the biggest struggle that you face in keeping strong your faith and passion for God's mission during this season of intentional quiet and isolation? How can you tackle that issue this week?
3. What is a way you can celebrate Christ's entry into our world and establishing his kingdom this week, even amid the limitations we currently face? How do you plan to tend to your faith during this most unique of Holy Weeks for our church community?

