

## Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023

### Processional Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11

**Matthew 21: 1-2** – When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me.”

**Matthew 21: 4-5** - This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet saying, “Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

*Zechariah 9: 9 – Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*

*Mark 11: 2 and Luke 19: 30 – A colt that has never been ridden.*

*John 12: 14-15 – Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: “Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion! Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!”*

**Matthew 21: 3** – “If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.”

*Cf. Luke 5: 3 – He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.*

**Matthew 21: 6-8** – The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

*John 12: 12-13 – The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him.*

**Matthew 21: 9** – The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

*Mark 11: 9-10 – “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”*

*Luke 19: 38 - “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!”*

*John 12: 13 – “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our Lord – the King of Israel.”*

*Luke 19: 39-40 - Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”*

*Luke 19: 41-44 – As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, “If you had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But they are hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up ramparts around you and surround you and hem you in on every side. They will crush*

*you to the ground, and they will not leave within you one stone upon another; because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God.”*

**Matthew 21: 10-11** – When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

*John 12: 17-19* – *So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify. It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him. The Pharisees then said to one another, “You see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!”*

### **First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a**

5-6 - I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

7-8 - The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have set my face like flint.

I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near.

*Flint is a very hard, dark rock that is used figuratively in the Bible to describe such things as the firmness of horses’ hoofs, the toughness of an impossible task, and the inflexibility of unwavering determination.*

*Here the prophet uses the phrase “set my face like flint” as a figure of speech to describe the Servant’s unwavering determination to persevere in the excruciating task set before Him.*

*Luke 9: 51* – *When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.*

*Philippians 3: 13-14* – *This one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.*

*2 Timothy 4: 7* – *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*

*Hebrews 12: 1-2* – *Let us lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.*

### **Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11**

4 – Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

5 - Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

#### **Humiliation –**

6 - who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,

7 - but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

8 - he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

#### **Exaltation -**

9 - Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,

10 - so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 - and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### **Same structure as for the Second Article of the Apostles Creed**