

Bible reading Matthew 21:1-11

Hymn 356- Singing-The Faith-*Jesus shall take the highest honour*

The Triumphal Entry

21 Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me.³ If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” ⁴ This took place to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

⁵ “Say to the daughter of Zion,
‘Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt,^[a] the foal of a beast of burden.’”

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸ Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and

others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.⁹ And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”¹⁰ And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?”¹¹ And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”

Matthew 21:1-11 English Standard Version (ESV)

Reflection

This week is the end of Lent and the beginning of the Holy Week. We are reflecting on Psalm Sunday when we are hearing about the Triumphal Entry. First of all, what is triumph? Some definitions say it is great victory or achievement. Therefore, one cannot proclaim victory until the line is crossed. It is only after crossing the line that one can punch the air and say “yes, I have done it”. It reminds me when I was at school running a race and because of all the cheers and seeing the line I punched the air in jubilation before crossing the line only to realise someone whizzing past me and crossing the line before me and they were declared the winner because they had

crossed the line. This week we hear our Lord drawing near Jerusalem to cross the line to victory. Jesus punches the air and says “mission accomplished”. It is in Jerusalem where all the drama unfolds during the Holy week. Jesus’ actions were courageous because he knew that his entrance into Jerusalem would upset the rulers and indeed they were upset thus arresting Jesus. The rulers did not know this was a divine plan, for God to sacrifice Jesus for the benefit of human race. The death of Christ is victory to all who accept him as Christ and saviour hence we are punching the air in triumph shouting “Hosanna in the highest” It’s only the blood of Christ that will take away our anxieties, fears and doubts and give us hope at a time as this. That is why we are singing hymn 356 “*Jesus shall take the highest honour*”. It is through hope that we can face tomorrow with courage. Hallelujah! 🙏🙏

Prayer

We pray heavenly father at a time as this we are being reminded of our Lord’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem. An entry that we all celebrate punching the air with joy and hope that we can now face tomorrow with courage. We are comforted by being reminded that Christ conquered death on the cross thus taking away our fears, doubts and anxieties. It is only through the

blood of Christ that we can still join hands spiritually and shout “Hosanna in the highest. We have proclaimed that Jesus should take the highest honour. Help us God as we pray for each other and for those in the front line who are sacrificing their lives to be of service to the nation and to you. Its only you God who can give them hope and courage at a time as this. We continue to pray for all suffering and confused that you continue to show them the way. We pray heavenly father in Jesus’ name. AMEN! 🙏🙏

*Prepared by **Rev Mary Sachikonye Methodist Minister for** (Mile Cross, Costessey, Trinity Thorpe Mariott, Hosford and Drayton) for a time as this. We are a church without walls. We should therefore, continue to proclaim the good news. I will be sending **Words of Hope** every week so that we may continue to nourish our spirits and continue to live in HOPE!*