

Sermon- Our Savior Lutheran Church – Palm Sunday- 4/14/19

Text- Luke 19:28-44

Everybody Loves a Parade

Grace and Peace to you and from our Lord Jesus Christ. I titled this exercise in this short homily 'Everybody Loves a Parade'. Boy. Is that true. I certainly love them. When my children were younger I always took them to both the Flag Day and the Christmas Parade in Appleton. They were grand. I even went to a ticker tape parade. The year was 1955. The real baseball team, the Brooklyn Dodgers, had finally beaten the New York Yankees in the World Series. The Dodger team rode in fancy Cadillacs – like #42 Jackie Robinson and other players that lived in my neighborhood - Duke Synder, Gil Hodges, Pee Wee Reese, Preacher Roe. It was grand for a 12 year old kid. The problem was the amount of people there. One could hardly move. A mass of humanity was present.

That's what is happening with the parade we are focusing on today. The parade of Jesus entering Jerusalem. It's Passover time and the city of Jerusalem is jammed full of people. This coming Thursday we will focus on the Passover celebration at our Maundy Thursday service. Into this crowded city, this mass of humanity, Jesus enters. Not in a Cadillac but on a donkey.

There were people watching him coming into the Holy City. Some were Scribes and Pharisees who were hoping he was only a flash in the pan kind of guy. One who was upending all of their traditions. They were hoping he would fall off his donkey. Another group were called Zealots. They were hoping that Jesus would overthrow the establishment even by force. Finally someone to lead a military coup. Yet another group was the followers of Jesus. They believed in him. They were the ones who were spreading palm branches in his path, a symbolic gesture befitting a king. You could hear shouts of Hosanna to the Son of David. And of course there was also a bunch of curiosity seekers. Not really involved. Just there to take in the action.

And what does Jesus do in the midst of the crowds. Does he wave to the crowds? Does he give the victory sign? No. He rides in silence. As a matter of fact he doesn't even look like a king. Which for him is not unusual. I mean think about it. What kind of king searches for his lost sheep?

What kind of king is that is like a rejected father who goes out and waits at the fence for his son to come back to him?

What kind of king washes the feet of his followers?

What kind of King heals and loves all people without distinction of color or economic status?

What kind of king would die for his people?

That's why Jesus rode in silence because he knew he would die for us.

This is the kind of king we worship on this parade day. The kind of king who wants to rule our hearts from within. Who doesn't want outer compliance, but inner love. Who doesn't want duty, but hearts doing the will of God.

That's the kind of king we need to worship on this Palm Sunday. A king who loves us, a king who died for us, and a king who promised he would always be with us.

When you take your Palm home, let it be a reminder that this is the king we worship. It doesn't get any better than that.

Amen- Let it be so.