



**DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
PALM SUNDAY — YEAR A**

INVOCATION

L: In the name of the Father
and of the Son +
and of the Holy Spirit.

G: Amen

PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 24

A: Let the Lord enter; he is the King of glory.

L: The earth is the LORD'S, and everything in it,

G: the world, and all who live in it;

L: for he founded it upon the seas

G: and established it upon the waters.

L: Who may ascend the hill of the LORD?

G: Who may stand in his holy place?

L: He who has clean hands and a pure heart,

G: he will receive blessing from God his Savior.

L: Lift up your heads, O you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,

G: that the King of glory may come in.

L: Who is this King of glory?

**G: The LORD strong and mighty,
the LORD mighty in battle.**

L: Lift up your heads, O you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,

G: that the King of glory may come in.

L: Who is he, this King of glory?

G: The LORD Almighty – he is the King of glory.

A: Let the Lord enter; he is the King of glory.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: We praise you, O God, for the great acts of love by which you redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ. As he was acclaimed by those who scattered their garments and branches of palm in his path, so may we always hail him as our King and follow him with perfect confidence; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

READING & MEDITATION *see next page*

PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

**A: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

VERSE OF THE DAY

A: The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. (John 12:23)

BENEDICTION

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

A: Amen

READING AND MEDITATION:

Palm Sunday: Hail the King who humbly comes to save us! For 1700 years the Church has celebrated with Hosannas and palm branches this festival that opens Holy Week. The time for Christ's glory had come (Verse of the Day). He would not, however, gain glory in the manner of other kings. Rather, he would humble himself in great acts of love for us, and then the Father would exalt him to the highest place, because he had fulfilled God's mission to save mankind.

As you study this week, seek to find the connecting theme in all the lessons by using Luther's Four Big Barber Questions to ponder and discuss each individual reading:

1. *What is God saying to me in this lesson?*
2. *For what does this lesson lead me to give thanks?*
3. *What sins does this lesson lead me to confess?*
4. *For what does this lesson lead me to pray?*

THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 21:1-11

The great King comes to his city and to his temple! He could have come with all the power and glory of the Son of God. He could have ridden a thunderstorm as his chariot with legions of angels striding beside him and creation itself singing forth the praise of its Maker. But look how he comes: Not on the storm, but on a donkey; not accompanied by heavenly warriors, but by fishermen with a spotty record of faith; not to the sound of creation singing, but to the shouts of fickle pilgrims who cheered him on Sunday but would desert him by Friday. Why did he come so humbly? Because he came not to rule us, but to save us. He came, not to command us, but to invite us. He came not to demand anything from us, but to give everything for us. He comes in the name of the Lord to save us. Hail him!

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: ZECHARIAH 9:9, 10

Zechariah tells Jerusalem to rejoice when the messianic King comes to her, because he will have with him the righteousness she needs and the salvation she craves. This King would surpass the glory and power of all Israel's kings before him. King David's rule extended to the River Euphrates at its farthest—but this King's rule would extend from the Euphrates to the very ends of the earth, from sea to sea. His worldwide kingdom would mean the end of war and the advent of peace. All this he would do not with an army, but with his person—not with violence, but with gentleness. Rejoice, daughter of Zion! Your King comes to you. Hail him!

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

Jesus is our King, but he came humbly to save us. Though true God, he became man. Though all powerful, he became a servant. Though immortal and eternal, he died. He not only laid aside his glory, but he took our shame upon him. He not only humbled himself, but he died as one who was cursed. Yet in this great humility, he won the peace of forgiveness for us. The King came humbly because he wasn't on the way to a throne in Jerusalem, but to a hill called Golgotha where he would fulfill God's mission and save his people. Therefore, God would give him glory greater than his humiliation—every creature will bow the knee and hail him: Jesus Christ is Lord!

My takeaways:

What major theme(s) connect(s) all the lessons?