



## THIS WEEK'S PONDERING

MARCH 25, 2021

*Devotion written by the Rev. Daniel Selbo, North American Lutheran Church*



Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, 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 ... They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 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!” And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.” – Matthew 21:1-11

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of the most Holy Week in the life of the Church. What happened during those final days of Jesus’ life are, without question, some of the most important events this world has ever seen. Nearly one out of three chapters in the four biblical Gospels are dedicated to that final week of our Lord’s life. And why? Because what happened during those final days is what makes Jesus’ life of eternal importance for us.

It is the question of the ages. It is a series of events that forces each of us to decide. It is a week, beginning with the events we remember today, that demands that everyone who has ever lived make a choice.

“Who is this Jesus?” That is the question the people asked on that first Palm Sunday, and that is the same question we face as we enter this week of passion for our Lord. If Jesus was the Christ, the Savior of the world, then the answer to that question means everything. If He was not and it was all a farce, then it means nothing. But there is no middle ground when it comes to Jesus. There is no middle ground for us as we answer that question for ourselves.

Did you know that there is more historical evidence for the life of Jesus than there is for almost any other person who has ever lived? Four different accounts are given to us in the Bible. More than five thousand historical references are found outside of the New Testament alone. You can question the significance of His life. You can wonder about the validity of what He did. You can even have your own

opinion about the difference it makes in your life. But you cannot argue with the historical facts. Jesus was a real man, with real-life followers. He rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the shouts and cries for a king. And by the time the week was finished, this same Jesus was nailed to a cross. The Bible says He was God's Son, and He did it for you and for me.

"Who is this Jesus?" It is the question of the ages. It is a question you and I must answer. There is no better day to answer it for yourself than today.

***Lenten Response:*** Read Matthew Chapter 21 and ask yourself if you truly understand the significance of Jesus' life for you.