

Grace Tidings



A Newsletter of Avalon Grace Church

MARCH - 2026

Palm Sunday - Prophecy Fulfilled

TRADITION says that Palm Sunday is a day in which churches remember or re-enact our Lords' final entry into Jerusalem as recorded in Matthew 21. Many churches bless, anoint palm branches with holy water, and distribute them to parishioners to commemorate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, marking the start of Holy Week. These palms, often woven into crosses, are considered sacramental by some; representing victory and Christ's sacrifice, and are typically taken home to be displayed in homes behind crucifixes or placed in bibles. These traditions are observed in many religious denominations, including Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist, Anglican, and Orthodox churches.

But here are a few points about Palm Sunday as recorded in Matthew 21 that are often overlooked about Jesus' final entry into Jerusalem:

1. Religious rulers are moved by large crowds.

Though they were plotting for his death, and seeking to arrest him, the chief priests did not arrest Jesus due to the multitudes crying "Hosanna to the Son of David." A few days later the crowd would be crying "crucify him!" The priests complied. One reason the priests stumbled over the rock or chief corner stone was that they were following the crowds and not their Messiah Acts 13:45: *"But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming."*

2. The majority often gets it wrong.

Remember when Jesus asked Peter, "Who do they say I am?" (Matt 16:13). The "they" were the same people crying "Hosanna" in Matthew 21. Peter's answer was that they believe him to be "one of the prophets" (Matt 16:14). They were wrong. Peter knew better. Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God (Matt 16:15). The multitudes in Jerusalem when asked the crucial question of Jesus ministry, responded in error:

"Who is this? And the multitude said, 'This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee.'" (Matthew 21:10-11). He was more than a prophet; He was the Christ.

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AVALON GRACE CHURCH

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Pastor Phillip McClellan, Jr.

Pastor Emeritus Arthur Sims

Kathleen Smith, Editor

All Are Welcome!

Sunday Worship 10:30 AM

Sunday Messages available on website:

(www.avalongracechurch.com)

Children's Sunday School 10:45 AM

Bible Study, Thursday Evenings 7:00 PM

**"And to make all men see
what is the fellowship of the mystery,
which from the beginning of the world
hath been hid in God, who created
all things by Jesus Christ: . . ."**

- Ephesians 3:9

Palm Sunday - Prophecy Fulfilled (Continued from Page 1)



3. Jesus was the Messiah that nobody knew.

The multitudes did not know what they were saying, but this did not stop prophecy from being fulfilled. The way Jesus enters into Jerusalem fulfills Zechariah 9:9: *“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, the King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.”*

See Psalm 8:4, and Psalm 118:24-26 confirming he is the Christ from the scriptures. Just before His ascension, Jesus opened their understanding of the scriptures (Luke 24:45): *“Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures . . .”*

4. The kingdom did not come.

Some may think that since Jesus had a King’s reception that day, that it was an indication of his kingdom having come, but they would be wrong. Though the throng sang praises when Jesus entered that day, any triumph was short lived. Jesus was a King without a kingdom. After the palm leaves and Hosanna’s, Jesus wept over the city because it did not know him as Christ (Luke 19:41-44). A few days later, their refusal of him would be manifest in his crucifixion and subsequently in their rejection of his disciples (Acts 7:57).

Peter later learned why: From the revelations given to Paul: (II Peter 3:15-16) *“And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also, according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.”*

5. No one knew the gospel of grace of God as yet not having been given to Paul.

(Galatians 1:11-12): *“But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.”*

While a few of his disciples knew and believed he was Christ, they did not know why he kept telling them he had to die and rise again. Jesus had told them he was going into Jerusalem to die, but they were ignorant about what it meant (Luke 18:34). II Corinthians 2: 7-8: *But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”*

No one throughout the entire so-called “holy week” two thousand years ago knew the preaching of the cross as the power of God unto salvation. No one knew God’s mystery purpose to place Christ as the Head of a new creature (not Israel), which would consist of neither Jew nor Gentile, in a joint body, the Body of Christ. What we would learn was kept secret on that day (Rom 16:25; 1 Cor 4:1-2).

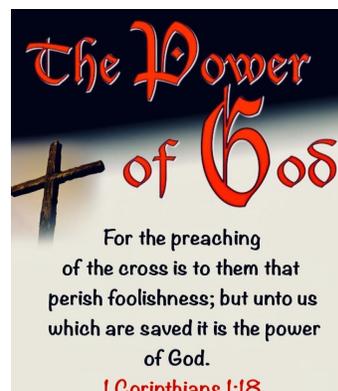
Religious “holy week” ends with the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ and the preaching of the Kingdom, but the ministry of Paul to the church which is the Body of Christ begins with the revelation of the gospel of the grace of God revealed to Paul: Eph. 3: 4-6: *“Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ; which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:”*

Meanwhile, the stewards of the mysteries of Christ should continue preaching the glory of the cross of Christ as the best news the world has ever received – every day, not just on Palm Sunday.

The continued rejection of Jesus as the Son of God (the Messiah) was an attack of the devil by way of the Jewish religious leaders in conjunction with the Roman government. “Palm Sunday” often depicts His acceptance by the people but later they are turned against Christ by said co-conspirators. The commercialized “palms” are just another example of “money-changers” at work.

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:2).

In Christ, Pastor Phil



March Reflections . . .



May the Strength of God pilot us
May the Power of God preserve us
May the Wisdom of God instruct us
May the Hand of God protect us
May the Way of God direct us
May the Shield of God defend us
May the Host of God guard us
Against the snares of the evil ones
Against temptations of the world.
May Christ be with us!
May Christ be before us!
May Christ be in us, Christ over all!
May Thy Salvation, Lord, always be ours
This day, O Lord, and evermore.

- Prayer of St. Patrick

THE PARTS OF SPEECH POEM

Every name is called a **noun**,
As **field** and **fountain**, **street** and **town**.
In place of noun the **pronoun** stands,
As **he** and **she** can clap their hands.
The **adjective** describes a thing,
As **magic** wand or **bridal** ring.
The **verb** means action, something done,
As **read** and **write** and **jump** and **run**.
How things are done the **adverbs** tell,
As **quickly**, **slowly**, **badly**, **well**.
The **preposition** shows relation,
As **in** the street or **at** the station.
Conjunctions join, in many ways,
Sentences, words, **or** phrase **and** phrase.
The **interjection** cries out, "**Hark!**"
I need an exclamation mark!"

SPECIAL DAYS

For a lot of people special days are used as reminders to get in spiritual shape.

This becomes more apparent with the annual religious talk in the spring about Lent, Ash Wednesday, Total Consecration, and Fat Tuesday (Mardi Gras).

People think by "going to church" on a special day, or by limiting their flesh by abstaining from something they desire (during Lent) they are training their flesh to do right and earning credit with God.

Real spiritual growth is learning that instead of putting chains on your flesh we are to reckon it dead: "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin" - Romans 6:6

No chains are needed. We are to reckon ourselves alive unto God: "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." - Romans 6:11. No laws required.

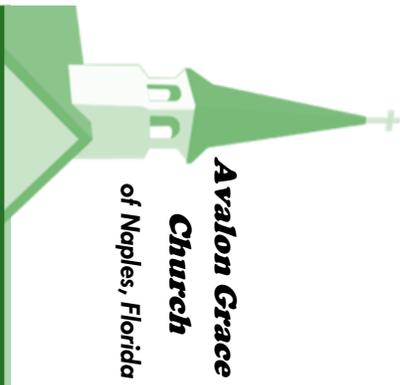
Otherwise, Paul says such works are weak and beggarly solutions: "But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?" - Galatians 4:9. Make rightly dividing doctrine an everyday lifestyle decision and it will grow and strengthen your faith.

For His glory,
Justin "Too fat for Fat Tuesday" Johnson
Grace Ambassadors

Coloring for Jesus



Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass. - Zechariah 9:9 KJV



**Avalon Grace
Church**
of Naples, Florida



March 2026



SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:45 Sunday Breakfast 10:30 AM Sunday Worship 10:45 AM Children's Sunday School						



MARCH

6th **Toby Stevens**
25th **Mike Stevens**

8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10:30 AM Sunday Worship 10:45 AM Children's Sunday School DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME Begins						

15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10:30 AM Sunday Worship The LORD'S Supper 10:45 AM Children's Sunday School					ST. PATRICK'S DAY	
					SPRING BEGINS	

22	23	24	25	26	27	28
10:30 AM Sunday Worship 10:45 AM Children's Sunday School						

COMING IN APRIL 2026
5th **EASTER SUNDAY**
(Pot Luck Lunch
following Worship Service)

29	30	31
PALM SUNDAY 10:30 AM Sunday Worship 10:45 AM Children's Sunday School		