

# NEW BEGINNINGS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Palm Sunday – April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (11:11 am)

## MAJESTY IN HUMILITY

*Psalm 118:19–29*

**John 12:12–19 (Palm Sunday Procession)**

*Deuteronomy 32:36–39*

*Philippians 2:5–11*

**John 12:20–43**

### ***The Cross and Passion of Our Lord Are the Hour of His Glory***

The King of Israel comes into His royal glory by the path of humble obedience *“to the point of death, even death on a cross”* (Phil. 2:8). He *“goes as it has been determined”* (Luke 22:22), according to the Scriptures, willingly submitting to His Father’s plan for the salvation of sinners. *“Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name”* (Phil. 2:9). His suffering and death open the way of repentance for the forgiveness of sins because He goes to the cross bearing the sins of the world. In His resurrection, God the Father vindicates His people and has compassion on His servants (Deut. 32:36). He kills to make alive; He wounds in order to heal. In remembrance of Him, we praise God, confessing *“that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”* (Phil. 2:11).

***“Hosanna!”*** — This was the cry of praise and adoration raised by the crowds as they recognized the Messiahship of Jesus during His triumphal entry into Jerusalem: *“Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD!”*

This morning, we saw palm branches in the church as we walked through the sanctuary. These branches symbolize excitement and high expectation. You could sense a spirit of joy as we entered—couldn’t you?

Objects, gestures, and both verbal and nonverbal behaviours serve as symbols of our attitudes and beliefs. Symbols speak. They make statements and convey meaning. Depending on how and where they’re used, they can affirm or offend. A cross worn around the neck can express one’s Christian faith. And even something as ordinary as the golden arches of McDonald’s can bring comfort when you find yourself in unfamiliar surroundings.

Today, we reflect on the profound mystery of the Cross and the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. His death and resurrection represent the greatest act of glory—yet that glory is revealed along the path of humility. Jesus, the King of Israel, enters His royal glory not with displays of might or power, but through humble obedience to the will of His Father, ultimately leading to the cross. This humility is at the heart of how we come to understand the majesty of God.

### **The Cross and Passion: The Hour of His Glory**

The cross, often seen as a symbol of defeat and suffering, becomes—through Jesus—the moment of His highest glory. As Philippians 2:8 tells us, *“He humbled himself*

*and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.”* Jesus willingly followed this path of suffering and obedience because it was the Father’s will for the salvation of the world. Through humility, He secures victory over sin and death for all who believe.

### **Jesus: Humility and Majesty**

Philippians 2:5–11 presents a powerful paradox: Jesus is both the humble servant and the exalted Lord. He *“emptied Himself,”* taking on the nature of a servant, yet through His humility, He is raised to the highest place. His obedience—even to death—is the path through which He is glorified. In God’s kingdom, majesty and humility are not opposites; they go hand in hand. Greatness comes not through domination but through service and sacrifice.

### **Vindication and Compassion – Deuteronomy 32:36**

To vindicate means to clear someone from blame or to prove them right. Deuteronomy 32:36 declares: *“The Lord will vindicate His people.”* Through the suffering and resurrection of Jesus, God vindicated His Son as the true Lord and showed His deep compassion for His people. The cross is not just a place of judgment, but of justification—where guilt is removed, and mercy triumphs.

### **Jesus’ Entry into Jerusalem: Majesty in Humility**

In John 12:20–43, Jesus makes His entry into Jerusalem. The people greet Him as King—but He arrives not with the grandeur of a conquering ruler, but with the humility of a servant. He knows that His glory will come not through political power, but through the cross. The people were looking for a political saviour, but Jesus offered something greater: spiritual salvation through sacrificial love.

### **Submission to God’s Plan**

Jesus’ life was marked by complete submission to the Father’s will. In John 12:27, He says, *“Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour.”* Even in the face of death, Jesus chooses obedience. His submission becomes the path to glory. As His followers, we are also called to trust and submit to God’s will—even when it leads us through difficulty. His plan is always good, even when we do not understand it.

### **WHAT THIS MEANS FOR US**

#### **The Majesty of Humility**

Jesus teaches us that true majesty comes through humility and obedience. Greatness in God’s kingdom is not found in self-assertion, but in serving others and submitting to the Father. His way is not the world’s way—His glory is found in humble sacrifice.

### **Humility in Our Lives**

Reflecting on Christ's humility invites us to live humbly. This does not mean denying our worth; rather, it means recognizing that our worth is grounded in God. We live humbly when we trust Him, embrace His will, and serve others out of love.

### **Glory Through Suffering**

The suffering and death of Christ are not just tragic events. They are the means through which God's glory is revealed. When we face suffering, we can find comfort in knowing that God works through our struggles to fulfill His good purposes. Like Jesus, our suffering can be transformed into a testimony of grace that reveals His love to those around us.

### **Submission to God's Will**

Christ's life shows us the beauty and strength of submitting to God's will. Even in pain and uncertainty, He trusted His Father's plan. We are called to do the same. In surrendering to God, we find our true purpose and our lives become instruments of His grace.

This message has invited us to meditate on *Majesty in Humility*—to see how Jesus' path to glory was paved with obedience and sacrifice. Through His suffering and death, He reveals that true greatness lies in serving others and submitting to God's will.

As we follow His example, may we also embrace humility, trust in God's plan, and live lives that reflect His glory—knowing that, in God's kingdom, glory comes through service and sacrifice. Amen.