

I chose the First Lesson, Zechariah, for today's message.

The title for today's message is: **"The Glory of God"**

The prophet Zechariah said: **Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.**

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Behold, your king is coming to you! Now, if you were to hear such a glorious announcement, who would you look for?

Some years ago a book was written by Gene Smith, a noted American historian. The title was "When the Cheering Stopped."

It was the story of President Woodrow Wilson and the events leading up to and following WWI. When that war was over Wilson was an international hero.

There was a great spirit of optimism abroad, and people actually believed that the last war had been fought and the world had been made safe for democracy.

On his first visit to Paris after the war Wilson was greeted by cheering mobs. He was more popular than their own heroes.

The same thing was true in England and Italy. In a Vienna hospital a Red Cross worker had to tell the children that there would be no Christmas presents because of the war.

But the children said; President Wilson was coming, and they knew that everything would be all right.

The cheering lasted about a year. Then it gradually began to stop. It turned out that the political leaders in Europe were more concerned with their own agendas than they were in a lasting peace.

At home, Woodrow Wilson ran into opposition in the United States Senate and his League of Nations was not ratified.

Under the strain of it all the President's health began to break. In the next election his party was defeated.

So it was that Woodrow Wilson, a man who barely a year or two earlier had been heralded as the new world Messiah.

It's a sad story, but one that is not altogether unfamiliar. The ultimate reward for someone who tries to translate ideals into reality is apt to be frustration, even defeat.

There are some exceptions of course but not too many. It happened that way for the Son of God.

When Jesus emerged on the public scene He was an overnight sensation. So much so, that the masses lined the streets as He came into town.

On Palm Sunday leafy palm branches were spread before Him and there were shouts of Hosanna.

In shouting Hosanna, they were in effect saying "Save us now" Jesus. Great crowds came to hear Him preach.

A wave of religious expectation swept the country. But the cheering did

People still came to see Him, but the excitement was missing, and the crowds were not as large as they had been.

His critics now began to publicly attack Him now because they began to perceive that the masses were now turning on Jesus.

And before it was all over a tidal wave welled up that brought Jesus to His knees under the weight of the cross.

Why did the masses turn against Jesus? How did the shouts of Hosanna so quickly transform into the shouts of crucify Him, crucify Him?

What were the underlying issues? Look in five days it all fell apart. Why? That is the issue that I would like for us to look at this morning.

On this glorious day of our Lord's majestic entrance into Jerusalem, God Himself enters into His glory.

Yes, the very creator of all that is, the omnipotent power of the universe, the One who was, is, and always will be, has entered into Jerusalem.

Here, our Lord begins His triumphal trek to His most glorious, and honorable day, that is, here on earth.

And how does our Lord enter Jerusalem? Certainly not in a limousine, nor on a white stallion.

No, our Lord entered Jerusalem on a donkey, Just as the prophet Zechariah prophesies. He said it would be a lowly entry into Jerusalem for our Savior.

God said; ***See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.***

But why would such a prestige's man, the savior of the world, make His triumphal entry riding on a donkey?

Jesus did this for the very purpose of His coming-Salvation. That the glory of God is in Christ's humility and servitude. Not as a worldly king.

He humbled Himself in this way in preparation to take away our filthy sins, by suffering the consequences of God's wrath in place of us.

Yet for many in the world today, the unbelievers, still look for a triumphal entry fit of a worldly King.

Sadly many people today have to see with their own eyes and not through their faith.

They want a sugar-daddy Jesus if you will, who makes them happy, and feel important.

However, this thinking, is an entry NOT into Christ's glory, but rather an entrance into hell.

Even Christians today yearn for a Jesus of glory that the world would stand up and recognize.

They too, lust for a Jesus who would be popular and a moneymaker so their congregation's budget, will balance at the end of the year.

They sinfully seek a Kingdom builder, one of wealth, power and numbers so that they might have bigger churches for the sake of recognition and power.

But, Jesus wants us to confess that the believer rejoices in the glory of the lowly, the humble, the poor, the sick and the needy.

And that the believer rejoices where only faith can see the glory of God, in His suffering, death and resurrection.

That we, poor sinners, need the glory of the God who suffered, and died. Yes the glory of the Cross.

That's the irony of the Gospel. It's the hidden truth that eyes cannot see, but only faith can believe and confess.

That's right, Jesus endured what we could not, He gave up His Holiness, power and Glory for you, me and all the people of the world.

The question is, how do you see the glory of God in your life? Well the answer should be you don't see His Glory.

No! Rather it's your faith, that confesses, and sees the glory of God, and this is exactly where we were told to see it.

It's through God's Word and Sacraments, that teach us where we can see His glory and His power.

The prophet Zechariah tells us that: **Jesus rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.**

He speaks peace and righteousness, having salvation in humility. Making His entry into Jerusalem glorious and triumphant.

Our Lord makes our daily life holy, and by His grace He calls us to be His own, through Baptism.

And He gives us faith that receives the holiness of Jesus which was earned on the cross, making us holy through faith in Christ.

Through the glory of the cross, our Lord gives to us and teaches us to see His glory in the reality of our faith.

When we turn to our own lives, and see them in faith, we see the glory of God in our sufferings, humility, and in our servitude.

So, the love of God and His mercy came to each one of us in the waters of our Baptism and through the bread and wine, His body and blood.

On that triumphant day, when our Lord entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey, He entered it for the last time for you and for me.

He entered in humility, and made His way to the cross, and to His most glorious moment in all His life here on earth.

That being His suffering and death on the cross. And His glorious resurrection from the dead, as He promised on the third day.

Amen

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all. Amen.