

“FROM HOSANNAS TO HARD HEARTS.”

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First Christian Reformed Church

March 29, 2026, 10:30 AM

Scripture Texts: Luke 19:28-44

Prayer:

Introduction.

If you had to name the greatest week in human history, the most important week, can anyone think of one more important, more world-changing week than Holy Week?

This is the hinge of history. Everything hinges on this week, everything changes because of this week. The events of this week transformed the world in ways no other event in human history has. It impacts everyone alive today in every country whether you believe in Jesus or not.

The triumphal entry is one of the most famous stories from the life of Jesus. It is recounted in all four of the Gospels. It is profoundly important. We need to know this story and the meaning of it. Please take this to heart this morning as I reflect on five phrases in our text.

Vs. 31 The Lord has need of it.

Who is this Jesus? Who is this man who claimed to be the Messiah, the Son of God, who says He has need of it.

Does that phrase strike you as strange? The Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, has need of it? How is it He has need of anything? This is Jesus in His humanity. Humbly He stoops to our level having needs like us.

Jesus entered fully into our flesh and bones, fully into our humble, dependent condition. We should be the ones humbled by this, that we have such a gracious and compassionate Savior.

Hebrews 4:15-16 We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of *need*.

He humbled Himself in order to sympathize with our needs and helps us in the time of our need.

Vs. 32 They found it just as He had told them.

Who is this Jesus? Who is this man who speaks about things in the future already knowing what will happen?

Who is this Jesus who has need of a donkey, yet knows everything about the donkey, that it was tied up in the village, that it had never been sat on? He knows exactly what its owner will say and that he will let them take his donkey. Who is this Jesus who knows what will happen, what people think and what they will say? Only God can do that.

Jesus is orchestrating and ordering and arranging events exactly for this very time and for His purpose. He anticipates possible hindrances and obstacles and He removes them, He goes on ahead to make the way straight and clear.

Jesus ordains and orders all creatures and all things in His creation, He controls all chances, all changes, all conditions, all persons, in order to glorify His wisdom, and magnify His mercy, and bring the most good out of all things, whether evil or good.

Those who heard Von Golder preach on Sunday evening heard him talk about the God who sees, the God who sees into our worlds, into our circumstances, into our very hearts and minds and souls. The Jesus who needs is the Jesus who sees needs. The Son of Man and the Son of God.

Don't doubt for a minute whatever Jesus says, whatever He says about any situation or circumstance and what He says about you. He sees, He knows everything, every last little detail, down to the hairs on your head and the thoughts in your head and the desires in your heart. He sees, He knows.

The challenge for us in this is to submit to all of God's providence, to be patient in all circumstances, to be content in all the changes of life, and to learn to look through any dark clouds with confidence in God's sovereignty and goodness, and the coming day of glorious redemption.

We show our trust in Jesus when we are able to look at everything in our lives and see by faith His hand in it all leading us along His chosen path.

When we get to heaven and we replay the video of our lives, we will see everything will be just as He said.

Vs. 37 The whole multitude of His disciples rejoiced and praised God with a loud voice.

Who is this Jesus? Who is this man that allows people to publicly worship Him with adoration and praise that is only allowed to God?

For the first time in His life on earth Jesus is receiving public praising and singing and rejoicing and making much about Jesus. They are giving glory to Jesus. Glory in the highest. Why? For all the mighty works He had done.

Notice all creation is worshipping, the children, adults, men and women, the donkey carrying Jesus, the branches of the trees, and if they didn't even the rocks would.

How are they worshipping? With exuberance, with freedom, with complete and total abandon, with self-forgetfulness, with no interest in themselves or what others think of them. Even in an undignified way. No one was thinking about their self-image. Like the children this morning.

What are the scribes and Pharisees doing? They are incensed at this blasphemous, undignified display of worship by Jesus' disciples. The spiritual leaders who should be leading worship are trying to stop it. Who do we want to be like, the dignified Pharisees or the undignified disciples?

How many of you love to hear an athlete, after a victory, giving glory to God, to Jesus? How many of you are aware of who the Christians are on the Mariners or Seahawks or your favorite sports team? Why do you know that? You know because they aren't afraid to give glory to God, to worship God with their lips.

But there is the problem, we are proud, we don't want to humble ourselves to the point of being free from what others think.

Who do you want to be like in this story? Think about it. Who are the joyful, happy people in the story and who are the miserable ones? The Pharisees are miserable, sad, pathetic, self-centered. What must it have been like to be one of them, or to be married to one of them?

Some of us here may have grown up in homes where the attitude was that worship was for women and children. Some of you men may even struggle with being here, it isn't manly or it isn't cool according to the world. You have to decide, do I care more about God and what He thinks, or do I care more about what other think?

It may be a bridge too far to act in worship like we do in a sports event, but we can certainly sing a little louder, and more importantly, more joyfully, more like we really believe it. This is what we are made to do, to publicly giving praise and honor and glory to Jesus to forget about ourselves. Give more of yourself to worship. Think about the mighty works Jesus has done for you and think about how to respond with more exuberant expressions of gratitude.

“Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

Vs. 40 If these were silent, the very stones would cry out.

Who is this Jesus who can make inanimate rocks worship Him? What do you think about that, could the rocks really sing? Is this just exaggeration to make a point, a little hyperbole?

What once were we? Rocks, hearts of stone, cold and hard, resistant to the Gospel and grace. What did God do when He saved us? He carved us out of the world, cut us free from the solid granite of sin and self, making us living memorial stones of Jesus' redeeming grace.

The worship of Jesus is unstoppable. If we won't do it, it will break out somewhere else. We are made to worship God, and if we don't do what He made us to do, we will be passed over. If we don't God will raise up worship somewhere, and if He has to from rocks.

We are created to worship and all of us do worship something. The one unique characteristic of human beings is we can choose who or what to worship. The Pharisees were worshipping on Palm Sunday, worshipping themselves, their pride, their power. Who or what you worship says what is central in our heart and soul. Is it something in the world or is it God?

I want to put some rocks out of work. I want to be a worshipper of God.

If all of the rest of creation is going to be worshipping God, I for one certainly don't want to be excluded or replaced, especially by a rock.

Jesus said to the women at the well that God seeks true worshippers, worshippers who will worship in spirit and in truth. Do you give thanks He has made you a worshipper and not some rock?

Vs. 41 And when He drew near and saw the city, He wept over it.

Who is this Jesus who weeps over a city? Who is this one who claims to be God yet crying? We aren't prepared for this, it jars us as not a fitting conclusion to the triumph of Jesus' entrance.

“Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes ... because you did not know the day of your visitation.”

Jesus weeps that the holy city of Jerusalem is turned against its Messiah, against its Savior. They are denying the one thing that will make for their peace who is standing right there in their midst.

We tend to think of Jerusalem as a great holy city, the city of our God, the spiritual center of our faith. But it is also a city of great wickedness, self-righteousness, stubborn resistance to the truth. It was a proud city. It is the city where they killed the prophets.

It was a city that had received every possible advantage to know and worship God. They had the covenants, they had the temple, they had the sacrifices that pointed to Christ, they had the prophets and the kings. They had the promises and prophecies of God. They had the adoption as the people of God. Finally, theirs was the Messiah.

Jerusalem surpassed every city on earth in the unique privileges and benefits it had been given. No city had more done for it for their salvation, and they rejected it all. And Jesus wept.

Jesus knew in just a few days He would receive the most unjust sentence and judgment, they would ask for the release of a notorious sinner in His place, they would hand Him over to the Gentiles to be crucified.

Knowing this Jesus still wept, still pitied this city. Jesus' compassion extends to all of mankind, men and women, young and old. He doesn't delight that any should perish, but holds out love and forgiveness to all who would repent.

And how is it with us? Have we not received everything they had and more? Is not God near to us and isn't Jesus in our midst?

Isaiah 55:6-7 Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;

7 let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

II Corinthians 6:2 Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

No one has an excuse. God has given all us the time of visitation. Our planet is the visited planet, it has received the visitation of God.

Do you not yet believe? Do you not yet repent of your sins and put your faith in Jesus? Yet you have had your day of visitation, every Sunday hearing the Word of God and the testimony of the Gospel of Jesus, every day surrounded by the evidence of God's grace, the salt and light of Christianity all around you. Don't ignore or neglect the truth of the good news being proclaimed to you this day.

Has not God drawn near to you and drawn you near to Him, have you felt the nudge of the Holy Spirit, heard the invitation to surrender and submit to Jesus? Don't neglect your day of visitation, if it passes you may not have another. Don't stifle the convicting of your soul, don't quench the voice of your conscience.

The light of Christ's salvation has shown in the darkness of our sinful world, don't extinguish it, rather run to it, embrace it, welcome it, make it your own.

Don't be the cause of Jesus' tears. Pray, Hosanna, Lord, save us. Believe and confess it with your heart and lips. There is no time better than Holy Week.

And for us who believe, what kind of love, mercy, pity, compassion do we feel toward the lost? This is true Christianity, to have genuine concern for those who don't know Jesus as their Savior.

Paul is our example in Romans 9:2, "I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart" for my fellow Jews who are cut off from Christ. Do we weep over Lynden or Whatcom County?

Implications and application.

Who is this Jesus? Who is Jesus to you? What have you done with Jesus?

What have you done with this Jesus who is flesh of your flesh, bone of your bone, who knows what you feel, who suffers what you suffer, who knows what you need and comes to meet it? Call on Him.

What have you done with this Jesus who knows your every thought and word before you think it or say it? Who not only knows your situations and circumstances and trials and troubles, but has ordained them and orchestrated them and is purposefully directing and using them? Confidently have faith He is in the midst of your life.

What have you done with this Jesus who weeps over the condition of our souls, who wants us to know what will make for peace in our lives and who wants us to know the time of His visitation before it passes and is gone? Come to Jesus.

What have you done with this Jesus who alone is worthy to receive your love and worship? Offer Him worship that is unhindered, free, unselfconscious. Give Him what you are created to give Him and what you owe Him for all He has done?

Who is this Jesus who has visited us? Come this evening to hear the full story.

Prayer: Our Holy Father in heaven, we humble ourselves before your majesty. Strip us of all our earthly trappings of pride and self-importance, that we might be enabled by your Spirit to worship you in spirit and truth. Transform our hearts and minds that in this place we would be true worshippers and add to our number those who have been turned from rocks to worshippers and grant this grace not only to us, but to all peoples and nations of the earth, for your glory and names sake, Amen.