

## The Humility of Jesus

When Jesus rides a colt into Jerusalem, he partially fulfills Zechariah's vision of a restored kingdom:

*Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!  
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!  
Lo, your king comes to you;  
triumphant and victorious is he,  
humble and riding on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey (9:9).*

Jesus' triumph will come, but only after he submits to the horror of death on a cross. For now, he demonstrates humility by riding a donkey's colt instead of a horse. He has not come like the usual emperor to lord it over others. His intent is "not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).

As I write this reflection in late October 2020, the boasts of many politicians contrast sharply with the humility of Jesus. Claims of Christian faith are often unsupported by Christian behavior, and our proud parties are so divided that we even wonder whether the aftermath of the election will be peaceful.

By the time you read this in March 2021, you will know more of the story; but, regardless of what happens, there will undoubtedly still be a need for prayer:

*Jesus, teach us your humility and do the same for our leaders. Change hearts and minds as you changed the apostle Paul's, and teach us all how to care for one another and for your world. Heal our divisions by giving us the same mind that you had when you emptied yourself, becoming like a slave for our sakes. May we and all our leaders set examples that mirror yours, for we ask it in your humble and holy name. Amen.*

—Dan Ulrich  
Greenville, Ohio

**Text for today:** "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, *he humbled himself* and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross" (Phil. 2:5-8, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16 / Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11 (8); Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39, (40-47).

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**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Let us pray. We respond to your love with love and gratitude,  
O God. We are touched by the story of the one you sent to save us.  
In gratitude and thanks, we dedicate this offering and our very selves to  
the ones you care so much about. Amen.

**SHARING OUR JOYS, CONCERNS, AND HOPES**

*Please remember our worship is also on Facebook Live and our website.  
Please do not share any personal information you do not want public.  
The usher will hold the microphone for you while you share.*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**EARLY SERVICE TEAM**    *“Hosanna! Praise is Rising”*    (Baloche/Brown)

**MESSAGE**                    *“And...in this corner...”*  
  Pastor Twyla Rowe

**\*HYMN #239**                *“Ride on, ride on in majesty”*

*[Verse 1]*

*Ride on, ride on in majesty as all the crowds “Hosanna!” cry, through waving  
branches slowly ride, O Savior, to be crucified.*

*[Verse 2]*

*Ride on, ride on in majesty in lowly pomp ride on to die. O Christ, your triumph  
now begin with captured death and conquered sin!*

*[Verse 3]*

*Ride on, ride on in majesty - the angel armies of the sky look down with sad and  
wond’ring eyes to see th’ approaching sacrifice.*

*[Verse 4]*

*Ride on, ride on in majesty, in lowly pomp ride on to die. Bow your meek head to  
mortal pain, then take, O God, thy pow’r and reign.*

*(continued)*

**\*LITANY AS HOLY WEEK BEGINS**

**One:** Today we have cheered you on as our champion and hailed  
you as our hero.

**All:** **Forgive us tomorrow when our enthusiasm wanes.**

**One:** Today we have entrusted you to rescue us  
from our pitiful circumstances.

**All:** **Forgive us on Tuesday when we decide  
we can take care of ourselves.**

**One:** Today we have made you the centerpiece  
of our very existence.

**All:** **Forgive us on Wednesday when we forget to  
remember who you are.**

**One:** Today we have called out to you loudly by name.

**All:** **Forgive us on Thursday when we pretend  
that we’ve never met you.**

**One:** Today we have stared at you with the  
star struck eyes of fans and groupies.

**All:** **Forgive us on Friday when we avert our eyes because  
it’s too painful to see you on the cross.**

**One:** Today we have expressed our unsuppressed hopefulness in  
the future you have in store for us.

**All:** **Forgive us on Saturday when we believe all is lost.**

**One:** Today we have been boldly certain of the  
earthly ways you will redeem us.

**All:** **Restore us on Sunday when we are startled  
and awed by your rising.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

*After the Benediction, you may be seated. Please continue  
in a spirit of worship as we listen to the Postlude music.*

**POSTLUDE**                *“March Triumphant into Jerusalem”*                (Thygerson)

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\*Please rise — in body or spirit — as an act of worship  
Thank you for joining us in worship today.

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