

Palm Sunday 2020  
Sermon by Pastor Michael

Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Matthew 21:1-11

“A journey through wilderness and death.”

We know this journey, don't we. A journey that is not finished yet. A journey that we wish would go away.

A wilderness filled with fear, like the Psalmist shares today. A wilderness that makes my bones dry up. A wilderness that sucks life away. A wilderness that makes us walk on the other side of the sidewalk when we encounter someone else on the same sidewalk. A wilderness of isolation and unknown.

And a journey through death. As we watch the numbers grow each day, if we allow ourselves to be reminded that these are not simply, numbers. These are sisters and brothers, parents, neighbors, friends, and co-workers, anything but, simply “numbers”.

And today, on this Palm Sunday, we hear news of a parade. A parade where people line the road into Jerusalem. People have gathered to witness Jesus triumphantly enter Jerusalem. And people are excited. He's finally here! He's journeying into Jerusalem, into their wilderness and...their death.

And everyone on that parade route are excited! They yell, “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.” And they should be excited. We should be excited.

We find hope in this parade. We find hope that Jesus is entering into our journey, into our wilderness and even our death.

And yet, the people that line that road into Jerusalem have a different understanding as to how Jesus is entering their wilderness. They are excited because they believe Jesus is there to pull them out of their wilderness, to rescue them and to conquer their wilderness.

And what we will find out this Holy Week is that Jesus has another way to enter into our wilderness and death. Jesus has a different way. Not to rescue us or pull us out of our wilderness, but to transform our wilderness and transform our death, for the sake of life.

Sisters and Brothers in Christ, this Holy Week let us continue on the journey in our wilderness and death, with Jesus, for the sake of Life.

Yes, “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!”  
And all God's children say...Amen.