

SERMON FOR WINKLE AND NOVEMBER 27, 2022

TEXT: MATTHEW 21: 1-9

THEME: A KING LIKE NO OTHER

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." 4 This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, 5 "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'" 6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. 8 Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

In the name of Jesus:

There are events that happen, when you hear of them, you remember exactly where you were and what you were doing when you heard the news. Events such as the Space Shuttle Explosion, and the Attacks on 9/11 come to mind. Another such event took place for me on September 8 of this year, when driving home from a shut in visit I heard the news that Queen Elizabeth had died.

Queen Elizabeth, the longest reigning monarch of our time, passed away on September 8. Her death will be a significant event. She has outlived 12

Presidents, she is a respected head of state. For a vast majority of people, she is the only monarch they have ever known. But her kingdom is in turmoil and her reign is coming to an end. During her reign as Queen, she has seen the nation of Ireland at war and split apart, the nation of Scotland talking of leaving the kingdom, and in spite of all of this, The Elizabethan Age is one that will be looked back upon with fondness.

In Britain, the news of her passing, years of planning were now about to be implemented. It was fascinating to see it all play out. I listened to the BBC and their coverage, special music was played, experts were called in to give their observations and opinions on all that was transpiring. Years of preparation went into the coverage of the death of the queen. Every contingency was taken into account, and as King Charles then stepped up to fill the vacancy left by the death of his mother, the wheels were set into motion to receive Britain's new king

I went to the Buckingham Palace website, and there the royal standard appeared on the screen. The national anthem was played, only this time the words were altered, instead of singing God save the queen, now the anthem concluded with the phrase God save the king.

Flags on the day of the queen's death were flown at half staff, but on the next day the flags returned to their standard position. King Charles, as he was

now called, had yet to be crowned, that will take place next year. But King Charles now was acting like the king he is. For the first time ever the Accession Council meeting was nationally televised for not only Britain but for the world to see. The clerk will read out the formal wording, “Whereas it has pleased Almighty God to call to His Mercy our late Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth the Second of Blessed and Glorious memory...” and Charles carried out the first official duties of his reign, swearing to protect the Church in Scotland, and speaking of the heavy burden that is now his. King Charles then began to tour the country, first England, then Scotland, and Wales, and then, finally, Ireland.

King Charles has already begun to implement changes and his rule will be quite different than his mother’s. Climate change and the environment will be issues that he will bring to the forefront of his agenda and he has stepped aside from him many of the charitable institutions that he supported as the Prince of Wales. Some things will change, and other things will remain the same. Life has gotten back to some semblance of normal for the Brits.

People continue to live their lives, yet greater issues still need to be addressed and answered. Questions as to the meaning of life, of eternity, of death itself. Questions that each and every human being must wrestle with for himself or herself. No matter the monarch, sin will rear its ugly head. Consciences will be afflicted with guilt, memories seared with shame. Death

will still affect everyone. And no king can change any of this, except One. Jesus, who is a KING LIKE NO OTHER.

As the Church Year comes to a close, we will celebrate Christ the King Sunday. Then the calendar will turn the page and lo and behold we will be in the season of Advent and worshipping on the First Sunday in Advent. The lessons for both Sundays will point us to another King, King Jesus. Matthew writes in his Gospel: “Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, **2** saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me.**6** The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. **7** They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. **8** Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. **9** And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”

Jesus’ triumphal ride into Jerusalem was not well scripted, instead it was predicted, prophesied in the Old Testament. The people of Jerusalem knew exactly what was happening when Jesus rode that donkey into Jerusalem. They had seen this somewhere before.

Something similar took place almost 1000 years earlier. King David was getting ready to die. He wanted Solomon to be his successor. But how would David make known to all that Solomon was to be king? Here is what David did, he put Solomon on the back of a donkey and paraded him into town treating him like a king coming to his people. The Bible says that there was a noise that reverberated throughout the country celebrating Solomon as king.

The earth reverberated with noise when Jesus entered Jerusalem. Children sang Hosanna to the Son of David, people cut palm branches and lined His path with the cloaks they were wearing. The whole city was stirred up! Who is this King, Jesus? And what type of Kingdom is He a King of?

He is a King like no other. Not like the kings in your life. What, you say, you don't have a king? Well, consider for a moment those times in your life when you think that the world revolves around you. When life is about your issues, your problems, your job, your needs. Your life is all about yourself. You and I live in a world with gods of our own making, we make our own kings to follow. We live, move, and have our being in a culture all about me. There is an unrestrained pursuit of what makes us happy, and what our members think would make them happy. If only my kids would listen...if only I could hit the Powerball jackpot and have more money...if only my spouse would be a better spouse...our lives are filled with if onlys, if only I had this my life would be

better. Your life, and yes, my life, revolves around the self. Life has become all about the self. Each of us have made ourselves kings and queens and are tempted to live in our own little kingdom, seeking to have our own needs met. We live our lives as if we mattered the most and that God, the one True God, mattered the least. It is no wonder that lives today are filled with anxiety, depression, and substance abuse!

Doesn't God say to have no other gods? Aren't you supposed to fear, love and trust in Him above all things? The Bible says that in Him, in God we live, move, and have our being, and yet, each of us have created our own little kingdom of having the world revolve around me. And so we approach the end of the Church Year, and the season of Advent to prepare our hearts for another type of King. It's a time when we seek to take the focus off self, our own little kingdom, and focus on a new King, a different King. What God calls each of us to do is to repent! To turn from ourselves and focus on Him, to direct our eyes away from ourselves and to see Someone who is truly beautiful, Someone who is truly a King: King Jesus.

God sent Jesus, His only Son, to usher in God's Kingdom. But Jesus doesn't look like a king. He comes as a King in the form of a baby, true Man and yet very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made. This King, this Babe, comes into our world not

to be worshiped but to live and die. Jesus Himself said that the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many. There is only one King who loves you so much that He willingly dies the damnable death in your place. There is no other king, no other monarch, no other elected leader who knows you like He knows you.

God has loved you with an everlasting love, so much so that He sent you King Jesus. What He has recorded about King Jesus was true then, is true now, and will be forever. “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe in the Gospel.” For “the Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.” “For He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

In Baptism you have been made a child of the Father, a citizen of the Kingdom of God, not by works, but by faith. “Your citizenship is in heaven, and from it you await your King and Savior, Jesus Christ.” So how then should you live your life in honor of King Jesus?

“5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant,

being born in the likeness of men. **8** And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. **9** Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Amen