

The Donkey
G.K. Chesterton (1874-1936)

When fishes flew and forests walked
And figs grew upon thorn,
Some moment when the moon was blood
Then surely I was born.

With monstrous head and sickening cry
And ears like errant wings,
The devil's walking parody
On all four-footed things.

The tattered outlaw of the earth,
Of ancient crooked will;
Starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb,
I keep my secret still.

Fools! For I also had my hour;
One far fierce hour and sweet:
There was a shout about my ears,
And palms before my feet.



Palm Sunday

Old Orchard Church
Sixth Sunday in Lent
March 28, 2010
10:15 to 11:45 am

When kings are in procession
They are presented
With the insignia of their authority:
The crown, the scepter, the imperial orb.

When Christ proceeded into Jerusalem,
A symbolic announcing of his kingdom come,
Awaiting him were
A crown of thorns,
Beatings,
Nails,
And a throne of raw beams.
That's what we presented to him.

We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. Af word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**

*Descent to the Cross:
Celebrating the Triumphal Entry of King Jesus*

The crowds that went ahead of Jesus and those that followed shouted,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Hosanna in the highest!"

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?"

(Matthew 21:9-10)



Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson: Zechariah 9:9-17

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:1-17

Sermon

"Reflections on the Kingship of Jesus"

Text from Zechariah 9

Jon Coody, seminary intern, preaching

Ready For What?

The anonymous work, As Others Saw Him, A Retrospect, A.D. 54, is purportedly written from the point of view of one Meshullam ben Zadok, a member of the Council of Twenty-Three who voted for the death of Jesus. Meshullam sends his record to his friend Aglaophonos, physician of the Greeks at Corinth.

I heard nothing and saw nothing of Jesus the Nazarene till the very last week of his life, and that was the week before the Passover. The winter had been a severe one, and much misery had arisen among the folk through the exactions of the Romans; indeed, an attempt had been made to throw off the Roman yoke. In several places the people had assembled in arms and attacked the soldiery, and in some cases had slain their sentries. Pilate had but sent off a cohort into the district, and all signs of discontent went underground. One of the leaders of the revolt, Jesus Bar Abbas, had been captured and thrown into prison. He, indeed, had attempted an insurrection in Jerusalem itself, where he was well known and popular among the common folk. When he was arrested, a riot had occurred, and one of the soldiers was slain who had been sent to arrest him; wherefore he lay now in prison on the charges of rebellion and murder. Yet many thought that this man had been put forth to try the temper of the people and the power of the Romans, in preparation for a more serious attempt to shake off the oppressor.

Yet who should lead the people? Jochanan, the only man whom of recent times the people followed gladly, had been done to death by Herod. One man alone since his death had won the people's heart, to wit, Jesus the cousin of Jochanan. He, and he alone, could lead the people against the Romans, and all men wondered if he would. In the midst of their wonder came news that Jesus the Nazarene was coming up to the Holy City for the Feast of Passover, the feast of redemption from Egypt. Would it prove this year a feast of redemption from the Romans? All hope of this depended upon this Jesus.

It was twenty-one years ago, but I can remember as if it were yesterday the excitement in Jerusalem when the news came that Jesus of Nazareth had arrived in the neighborhood and was spending his Sabbath at the village of Bethany. All those who were disaffected against the Romans cried out, "A leader! A leader!" All those who were halt, sick, or blind, cried out, "A healer! A healer!" Wherever we went there was no talk but of the coming deliverance. As I approached one group of men I heard them say, "When will it be? When will he give the sign? Will it be before or after the feast?" "No," said one of the crowd, a burly blacksmith, "what day for the deliverance but the Passover day? But be it when it may, let him give the sign and I shall be ready."