Gospel
Luke 19:28-40

28 After he had said this,
he went on ahead,
going up to Jerusalem.

29 When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany,
at the place called the Mount of Olives,
he sent two of the disciples,

30 saying,
'Go into the village ahead of you,
and as you enter it
you will find tied there
a colt that has never been ridden.
Untie it and bring it here.

31 If anyone asks you,
"Why are you untying it?"
just say this:
"The Lord needs it." '

32 So those who were sent departed
and found it as he had told them.

33 As they were untying the colt,
its owners asked them,
'Why are you untying the colt?'

34 They said,
'The Lord needs it.'

35 Then they brought it to Jesus;
and after throwing their cloaks on the colt,
they set Jesus on it.

36 As he rode along,
people kept spreading their cloaks
on the road.

37 As he was now approaching
the path down from the Mount of Olives,
the whole multitude
of the disciples
began to praise God joyfully
with a loud voice
for all the deeds of power
that they had seen,

38 saying,
'Blessed is the king
who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest heaven!'

39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him,
'Teacher, order your disciples to stop.'

40 He answered,
'I tell you,
if these were silent,
the stones would shout out.'

Philippians 2:5-11

If then there is
any encouragement in Christ,
any consolation from love,
any sharing in the Spirit,
any compassion and sympathy,

2 make my joy complete:
be of the same mind,
having the same love,
being in full accord
and of one mind.

3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit,
but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.

4 Let each of you look
not to your own interests,
but to the interests of others.

5 Let the same mind be in you
that was in Christ Jesus,

6 who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

7 but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found
in human form,

8 he humbled himself
and became obedient
to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

9 Therefore
God also
highly exalted him
and gave him
the name
that is above
every name,

10 so that
at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven
and on earth
and under the earth,

11 and every tongue
should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory
of God the Father.

Reading the Epistle This Week

Starting Holy Week with Palm Sunday,
The 'triumphal entry',
Though we change gears from Lent psalms,
We still have song lyrics.

The diction and rhythm of the poetry,
From verses 5 to 11, or 6-11,
Are widely assumed to be a hymn,
Likely being quoted in this letter.

Like Corinthians,
This correspondence, to a church Paul served about 50CE,
Perhaps collected fragments, of one side of a conversation,
Claims to be written from prison – perhaps in Rome 60CE?

The rhythm of the opening verses, if… any… any… any… any…
Lead to a Clint Eastwood 'make my day' invitation
About humble unselfish service, like Christ's

That's the set-up for the hymn,
Contrasting Christ's divine and human 'form'
As a model for incarnation,
Worthy of celebration and emulation.

Can you hear it sung?
Has it been used triumphally,
In imperial Christendom mission?
Can we reclaim its core humility?

Reading the Gospel This Week

Luke's version of Jesus' entry to Jerusalem,
From getting the donkey,
To parading over cloaks, (not branches here)
Vary little from other gospels

Matthew spells out Isaiah 62 and Zechariah 9
But is riding a donkey, not a horse, pride or humility?
Is it a messianic claim, or a parody of military triumphs?

Was the crowd big or small –
Was it there for Jesus, or for the festival?
Luke omits 'Hosanna,' the festival greeting

Luke amplifies the 'multitude of disciples',
And their loud praise,
And witnessing to Jesus' deeds of power

What only Luke adds is the Pharisees' challenge,
'Teacher, order your disciples to stop'
And attributing to Jesus the response:
'I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out'

Who says 'shut up' –
And does it matter if they do?

Skip ahead to Luke 21:5-7 –
'the days will come
when not one stone will be left upon another;
all will be thrown down'

Is the church being dismantled in our generations,
As the Temple was in Jesus' generations?