

Philippians 2:1-11

¹If then there is
any encouragement in Christ,
any consolation from love,
any sharing in the Spirit,
any compassion and sympathy,

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

³Do nothing
from selfish ambition
or conceit,

but in humility
regard others as better
than yourselves.

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

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

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

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

And being found
in human form,

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

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

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

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

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.'

Reading Philippians on Palm Sunday

Third use of this letter in Lent this year
It's familiar mostly as a hymn we still sing:
'All Praise to Thee', VU #327

The opening appeal is 'if there is any, any, any, any'
Then complete my joy with unity
Not selfish divisive self-serving

Scholars recognize the way, v5-11 scans as poetry
Likely the lyrics of a popular hymn used in worship –
Paul started out in Philippi, in 50CE

The song celebrates Christ's *kenosis*, self-emptying
From birth to life to death of Christ, humbled
Then divinely exalted from those low places

When we observe 'Passion Sunday'
We tend to squeeze out all but a long gospel

Notes from Palm 2019:

<http://www.billbrucewords.com/2019/04/normal-0-false-false-false-en-ca-ja-x.html>

Notes on Palm 2021:

<http://www.billbrucewords.com/2021/03/parades-and-protests.html>

Notes from Palm 2022:

<http://www.billbrucewords.com/2022/04/humbled-pride.html>

Reading Luke on Palm Sunday

What's particular about the Third Gospel version
Of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem? Not much! No palms...
(Matt 21:1-9, Mark 11:1-10)

Check your mental movie again –
Are your Jesus and disciples leading a parade,
Or nearly lost in a bigger pilgrimage for Passover?

v37b has disciples shouting about Jesus deeds,
v38-40 in the lection, only in Luke, amplifies that
the RCL omits vv41-44 prophetic apocalyptic in Luke

I already offered Palm 2019, 2021, 2022

Here are others:

2010 Palm:

<http://www.billbrucewords.com/2010/03/fanatic.html>

2013 Palm in Calgary:

<http://www.billbrucewords.com/2013/03/parading.html>

2016 Palm in Calgary:

<http://www.billbrucewords.com/2016/03/on-this-path-gates.html>

Did COVID make us rethink Palm Sunday?
Are we simply returning to triumphalism?
Or are we morbidly focused on Passion?