

Order of Service | March 29, 2026

Welcome

Worship

Message: Senior Pastor Jay Bruner

Week 1: A Parade with a Purpose

Announcements & Prayer



A Parade with a Purpose

BIG IDEA: Palm Sunday wasn't hype for the one who was in it. It was a rescue mission for the ones watching it.

Luke 19:36-38 NLT | As He rode along, the crowds spread out their garments on the road ahead of Him. ³⁷ When He reached the place where the road started down the Mount of Olives, all of His followers began to shout and sing as they walked along, praising God for all the wonderful miracles they had seen. ³⁸ "Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in highest heaven!"

THE PURPOSE BEHIND THE PARADE

Ephesians 2:1-10 NLT | Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. ² You used to live in sin... ³ All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. ⁴ But God is so rich in mercy, and He loved us so much, ⁵ that even though we were dead because of our sins, He gave us life when He raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) ⁸ God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. ¹⁰ For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.

1. To reveal that we need a Savior. (We are dead in sin.)

Ephesians 2:1-3 NLT | Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. ²You used to live in sin, ...³All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature...

Romans 6:23 NLT | For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. To reveal that a Resurrector has come. (But God.)

Ephesians 2:4-5 NLT | But God is so rich in mercy, and He loved us so much ⁵... He gave us life when He raised Christ from the dead...

3. To give us a new identity. (Make us new.)

Ephesians 2:10 NLT | For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus...

4. To give us a life of meaning and value. (A new purpose.)

Ephesians 2:10 NLT | ...so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.

Going Deeper on Your Own. This week, read Luke 19:36–38, John 3:16-18, and Ephesians 2:1–10. Palm Sunday was not just a celebration; it was the beginning of a rescue mission. The crowd praised Jesus for what they had seen, but many did not yet understand why He had come. Paul explains that apart from Christ, we are dead in sin, which is why many people do not fully grasp the power of the cross; they have not yet recognized their need for it. But God, rich in mercy, gives new life through Jesus. By grace, we are saved, given a new identity as God's masterpiece, and a new purpose to live for Him. Remember: *It's one thing to believe about Jesus; it's another to believe in Him. We can admire Jesus and still miss Him. Faith is not just knowing He is real; faith is surrendering because He is Lord.*

Next Step: If you have never fully surrendered your life to Jesus, do so today. If you have, take a moment each day this week to thank Him for rescuing you. Then, tell at least one person what Jesus means to you and what He has done in your life. Finally, invite someone to come to church with you for Easter to hear the greatest news they could ever hear.