

**Scriptures April 2, 2023**  
**Zechariah 9:9-10 (NRSV)**

<sup>9</sup> Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

<sup>10</sup> He<sup>[a]</sup> will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the warhorse from Jerusalem;

and the battle-bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea,

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

## **Proclamation of the Entrance into Jerusalem Mark 11:1-11 (NRSV)**

**11** When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup> and said to them, ‘Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says to you, “Why are you doing this?” just say this, “The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.”’ <sup>4</sup> They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, <sup>5</sup> some of the bystanders said to them, ‘What are you doing, untying the colt?’ <sup>6</sup> They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. <sup>7</sup> Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup> Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. <sup>9</sup> Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

‘Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

<sup>10</sup> Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!  
Hosanna in the highest heaven!’

<sup>11</sup> Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

**Gospel April 2, 2023**  
**Matthew 27:11-50 (NRSV)**

<sup>11</sup> Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus said, 'You say so.' <sup>12</sup> But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. <sup>13</sup> Then Pilate said to him, 'Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?' <sup>14</sup> But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

<sup>15</sup> Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. <sup>16</sup> At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus<sup>[a]</sup> Barabbas. <sup>17</sup> So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus<sup>[b]</sup> Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?'<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>18</sup> For he

realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. <sup>19</sup> While he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him, 'Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.' <sup>20</sup> Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. <sup>21</sup> The governor again said to them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' And they said, 'Barabbas.' <sup>22</sup> Pilate said to them, 'Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?'<sup>[d]</sup> All of them said, 'Let him be crucified!' <sup>23</sup> Then he asked, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Let him be crucified!'

<sup>24</sup> So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, 'I am innocent of this man's blood;<sup>[e]</sup> see to it yourselves.' <sup>25</sup> Then the people as a whole answered, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' <sup>26</sup> So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

<sup>27</sup> Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters,<sup>[f]</sup> and they gathered the whole cohort around him. <sup>28</sup> They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup> and after twisting some

thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' <sup>30</sup> They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. <sup>31</sup> After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

<sup>32</sup> As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. <sup>33</sup> And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), <sup>34</sup> they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. <sup>35</sup> And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots;<sup>[g]</sup> <sup>36</sup> then they sat down there and kept watch over him. <sup>37</sup> Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.'

<sup>38</sup> Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>39</sup> Those who passed by derided<sup>[h]</sup> him, shaking their heads <sup>40</sup> and saying, 'You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.' <sup>41</sup> In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, <sup>42</sup> 'He saved others; he cannot save himself.<sup>[i]</sup> He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. <sup>43</sup> He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, "I am God's Son.'" <sup>44</sup> The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

<sup>45</sup> From noon on, darkness came over the whole land<sup>[j]</sup> until three in the afternoon. <sup>46</sup> And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' <sup>47</sup> When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'This man is calling for Elijah.' <sup>48</sup> At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. <sup>49</sup> But the others said, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.'<sup>[k]</sup> <sup>50</sup> Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.<sup>[l]</sup>