

What is Palm Sunday and what is it significant?

The triumphal entry; [Matthew 21:1-17](#)

Palm Sunday is the day we celebrate the [triumphal entry](#) of Jesus into Jerusalem, one week before His resurrection ([Matthew 21:1-11](#)).

[Palm Sunday](#) began with Jesus and His disciples traveling over the [Mount of Olives](#). [Luke 19:29-30](#)).

As Jesus entered the holy city, He neared the culmination of a long journey toward Golgotha. He had come to save the lost [Luke 19:10](#), and now was the time—this was the place—to secure that salvation.

[Palm Sunday](#) marked the start of what is often called “[Passion Week](#),” the final seven days of Jesus’ earthly ministry. Palm Sunday was the “beginning of the end” of Jesus’ work on earth.

As Jesus ascended toward Jerusalem, a large multitude gathered around Him. This crowd understood that Jesus was the Messiah; what they did not understand was that it wasn’t time to set up the kingdom yet—although Jesus had tried to tell them so [Luke 19:11-12](#), [Acts 1:6-7](#)

The crowd’s actions along the road give rise to the name “Palm Sunday”:
[Matthew 21:8](#), [John 12:13](#)

How many Palm Sundays were there and how many do Christians celebrate?

On that first Palm Sunday, the people also honored Jesus verbally acknowledged prophecy of the Christ: [Matthew 21:9](#), [Psalm 118:25-26](#)

It becomes clear that the triumphal entry was a significant event, not only to the people of Jesus’ day, but to Christians throughout history. We celebrate Palm Sunday to remember that momentous occasion.

Jesus’ purpose in riding into Jerusalem was to make public His claim to be their Messiah and King of Israel in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. [Zechariah 9:9](#),

The allusion to a Messianic psalm drew resentment from the religious leaders [2 Kings 9:13](#)).
[Luke 19:39-40](#)

The prophecy was fulfilled in every particular, and it was indeed a time of rejoicing, as Jerusalem welcomed their King. Unfortunately, the celebration was not to last. The crowds looked for a Messiah who would rescue them politically and free them *nationally*, but Jesus had come to save them spiritually.

Even as the multitudes waved the palm branches and shouted for joy, they missed the true reason for Jesus’ presence. They could neither see nor understand the cross. ([Luke 19:41-47](#))

It is a tragic thing to see the Savior but not recognize Him for who He is. The crowds who were crying out “[Hosanna!](#)” on Palm Sunday were crying out “Crucify Him!” later that week
[Matthew 27:22-23](#).

There is coming a day when every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord [Philippians 2:10-11](#).

The worship will be real then. Also, John records a scene in heaven that features the eternal celebration of the risen Lord: ([Revelation 7:9](#)