**John 12:12-15 The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, 13took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: “Hosanna! ‘Blessed *is* He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ The King of Israel!” 14Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written:15“Fear not, daughter of Zion; Behold, your King is coming, Sitting on a donkey’s colt.”**

 Today is Palm Sunday. A day of Victory! The start of a Holy Week of celebration! The Triumphal entry into the city! Though Jesus knew that betrayal lay ahead; trial lay ahead; suffering lay ahead; the Cross lay ahead, He set His face as flint as Isaiah 50:7 prophesies *For the Lord God will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have set My face like a flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed,* and Luke 9:51 confirms *Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem.* Jesus completed His work Faithfully.

 We too must complete our work faithfully. Salvation in Jesus must not be our invitation to sit down, but our motivation to stand up. It is not a call to rest, but a cry to work! Someone needs Jesus in your circle, in your family, in your friends, in your workplace today! Your Victory in Jesus is not their Victory in Jesus. We must be the beautiful feet bringing the Gospel to those who desperately need to hear!

 John 12:12 *The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem.* A great multitude – hundreds of thousands – a story is told from Jewish texts that King Agrippa asked that one kidney from each lamb killed at Passover be laid aside for him. The priests delivered 600,000 pairs of kidneys. The number is not important. It gives us context. Jesus, coming from Bethany, to Jerusalem, in spite of the plots against His life, face set as flint, to complete the work He was sent to complete and He is welcomed by a great multitude.

 John 12:13 *took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him,* Branches of palm trees – palm branches symbolize joy, triumph. Conquering Kings were welcomed with palm branches. Palm trees were carved into the walls of the original temple. Leviticus 23:40 says *And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of beautiful trees,* ***branches of palm trees****, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God for seven days.* This related to the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles. During the Feast, the priests performed a water libation, pouring out water from the pool of Siloam on the ground to signify Israel’s cry for blessing and abundance. Let us not forget that Jesus, the very Living Water of God, poured Himself out during this Feast. During the Feast, the temple was illuminated with four, large golden lampstands. Let us not forget that Jesus, the very Light of the world, brought God’s light of eternal Salvation to those who call upon Him. Finally, the Feast is center to God’s coming Kingdom – Zechariah 14:16 *And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.* Let us not forget that Jesus, King of kings, Lord of lords, will one day hear every tongue confess and see every knee bowed. Revelation 7:9-10 *After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes****, with palm branches in their hands****, 10and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”* The perfect Lamb on His throne in God’s Kingdom, hears the people crying out Psalm 118:26 *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We have blessed you from the house of the Lord* as we finish our verse 13 *and cried out: “Hosanna! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ The King of Israel!”*

Verses 14 & 15 *Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written:15“Fear not, daughter of Zion; Behold, your King is coming, Sitting on a donkey’s colt.”* Fulfillment of Zechariah 9:9*“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.* All of the Old Testament points to Jesus as King. Isaiah 62:11 in part says *Surely your salvation is coming; Behold, His reward is with Him, And His work before Him.* Jesus’ Victory is with Him, and His work lies before Him.

Our Victory is with us and our work lies before us, until the day that Jesus calls us home. We must never stop shining the Light and bringing the Water to those in need. Who knows who we might touch and point them to their eternal destiny? God knows and He’s called us all. His purpose is clear.

This week, let’s prepare our hearts. Cast eyes toward the Resurrection of Jesus. Think upon the path He chose to travel, even knowing His reward was already with Him. When He comes, will He find us watching and working or lounging and lazy? Matthew 24:45-46*“Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.* May He find us watching on the day that He makes His Triumphal Return.