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Do you like talking politics? A lot of people do like talking about it because there are some important issues there. How should we run things? Who should be in charge? On the other hand, many people don't like talking politics because, well, it's kind of a breeding ground for arguments. It can cause a lot of divisions.

As Christians, however, we are not united by our thoughts on one president or another. We are instead united by our faith in our one great leader, our one true King. He is a ruler with whom we can truly be happy. He is powerful and yet humble, victorious and yet he does what is right. As we celebrate Palm Sunday, we Acclaim the King who Keeps Promises!

Our reading begins with a call to joy for God's people! You can see the reasons why! First off, just catch the title God gives to his people here: daughter. God considers his people to be his dearly loved daughter. Our King is not simply a politician come to tell us what to do. He is our loving Father, come to care for and raise us as his own children!

Then Zechariah describes our King: he is righteous. Jesus, our King, always does the right thing. He is not influenced by selfish gain or bribes. He will not be swayed against us because someone else offered a better sacrifice than we did or because someone else has pleased God more. God will always do what is right.

He is victorious. He is himself one delivered! As we celebrate Palm Sunday and look forward to Good Friday, it certainly does not seem that he is victorious. He rather looks defeated and weak. Perhaps in your own life, your own struggle with sin, Jesus looks defeated and weak. Perhaps as you look at the world and culture surrounding us, Jesus appears defeated and weak.

Remember what is coming. Though Jesus was humbled for a time, though he was for three dark days dead in the tomb, he rose again! In rising, he showed that even his death, even his defeat, his weakness, his humiliation was a part of his victory. So too will he work in our lives. He will work our defeats, weaknesses, and humiliations into a part of his victory in our lives! What's more, in rising, he showed himself victorious over death itself. If our King can defeat death, what enemy is there

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for us to fear? What enemy is too strong for Jesus to defeat?

And yet, in spite of our King's moral perfection, in spite of his unrelenting victory, he is also humble, poor even. As Jesus rides into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, it's almost shocking to recognize the King over all riding in on a beast of burden, and not even his own donkey! It's an animal that someone else let him use. Our King is not so far above us in the social ladder that he has no time for us. He instead made himself poor. He, who is far above even the greatest of humanity, placed himself below us. It's hard to imagine many of our presidents doing anything to purposefully humble themselves. Most of us prefer to elevate ourselves above everyone else. But our King humbled himself for our sake. He humbled himself to lift us up.

This King will bring true peace. Zechariah tells us that our King will take away the chariots and warhorses, that he will break the battle bows! Now, wait a second. Does that mean God's gonna cut military spending and take away our guns? You could say that, but the reason he does it is because he can take away our need for them! Our King proclaims peace to the nations. Our King has the ability to create a world peace where there is no need to defend the weak, there is no need to fight injustice.

Our King has the power to wipe out evil, but he doesn't do it with superior firepower. He doesn't do it with better strategies. Instead, our King's weapons are the words of his mouth. Our King brings peace to the nations with the proclamation of peace. Our King fights with the gospel message; the message about our King who humbled himself and became victorious over death! That is the victory that has brought real peace to the world, peace between God and man, the peace of sins forgiven.

As that proclamation of peace, as the message of the gospel spreads throughout the world, more and more people will come to know that peace too. And on the Last Day, all of God's people will know the full total peace of eternal life in heaven when all our enemies, sin, death, the devil will be gone, conquered forever, crushed underneath the feet of our victorious King!

This King rules over the whole world. Our King does not just rule over our state, our country, or our continent. He is King over the entire world. He is King

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over the entire cosmos! He is King over everything that is, and, hey, why not? He's King over everything that is not, too! When we think about our King ruling, let's not get stuck in thinking that he is just ruling over the small bit of the world that we see in our own lives or on the news. Let's remember that his rule extends across the country, across the oceans and even across time! He has been ruling since the beginning! He is still ruling in Asia, in Africa, and, yes, even here.

This is the King Zechariah promised would come. And now comes the part that really sets our King apart from all earthly leaders. Our King always has and always will keep every one of his promises. Zechariah lived about 500 years before Jesus Christ was born. Nevertheless, God, speaking through Zechariah, promised this King who would come to Jerusalem riding on a donkey and 500 years later, on Palm Sunday, Jesus victoriously rode into Jerusalem on that donkey exactly as God had promised. He rode into Jerusalem to fulfill the promises God had made hundreds and thousands of years ago.

God promised to crush Satan's head, so Jesus rode into Jerusalem to die, Satan there striking his heel, but to then rise from the dead, crushing Satan's head. God promised a new covenant for his people by which he would forgive their sins, so Jesus rode into Jerusalem to die, to be the one sacrifice for sins, the fulfillment of every animal sacrifice offered on the altars of God's people for thousands of years. God promised that death would be swallowed up in victory, so Jesus rode into Jerusalem to die, and to rise again three days later, being the one person that death could not keep down. Death itself has become terminally ill since Jesus rose from the grave and one day death itself will die just as God promised.

This is our King. We have a King worth our admiration. We have a King who unites us. He is righteous and victorious. He is humble. He proclaims peace. And his rule has no limits. Acclaim the King who Keeps Promises.

