

SAVIOR
SERVANT
FRIEND

SERMONS FOR
PALM SUNDAY



KING

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SERMON

☐ When you were a child, did you ever play the game “King of the Hill”? The rules for this game are painfully simple: Designate a certain area as the “hill.” This can be a mound or a platform or a pile of snow. The person on top of the hill is king. Everyone else has one goal: Try to dethrone the king. Push the king off. Pull the king off. Wrestle the king from atop the hill so that you can become king. (To be certain, this is a pretty dangerous game and there are far safer games to play. It is hard to imagine someone getting a concussion playing with Legos or reading a book.)

People have been playing “King of the Hill” for a very, very long time. In fact, the painter Pieter Bruegel the Elder depicted children playing this game in the 1500s. His painting *Children’s Games* shows some children playing this game. And there is good reason to believe that this game did not get its start in the Renaissance or Middle Ages—who knows how long children have been playing “King of the Hill”? For generations and generations, self-proclaimed kings of the hill have been pushing everyone else off, fighting to the top and fighting to stay on the top.

In our Gospel reading for this Palm Sunday, we hear about a king—King Jesus. However, this King did not fight to stay on top of the hill. Rather, King Jesus revealed what kind of King he is by coming down from the hill in peace and humility, friendship and love. The Gospel of Luke