Message: ~~"Qualifiers of True Glory"~~ "A Tear for Gaza" sharing – 3-29-26
Scripture: **Matthew 21:1-11**

21When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, [2]saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. [3]If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." [4]This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, [5]"Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." [6]The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; [7]they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. [8]A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. [9]The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" [10]When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" [11]The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Isaiah 50:4-9a

[4]The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. [5]The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. [6]I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. [7]The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; [8]he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. [9]It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

"If the time is not ripe, we have to ripen the time."

- Dorothy Height

The phrase "Jesus is Lord" should not be used in American politics because rather than validating any party platform, it actually runs counter to the entire political process. It doesn't point to any political party but rather beyond them, to the God who disrupts the political forces of history. To pretend otherwise, to turn the phrase into a political slogan, is to ignore the world-shattering overtones of the credal formula. Those who wish to proclaim Jesus' lordship in the attempt to validate a particular political party would do well to remember Jesus' own comments on lordship: Not everyone who says "Lord, Lord" enters God's kingdom (Matt. 7:21).

In the end, the phrase "Jesus is Lord" is a prophetic message reminding us to put our hope not in politicians but in the God who is waiting on standby to dethrone every single one of them. *Brandon Ambrosino is an online columnist for the CENTURY. He has a PhD in theology and ethics from Villanova University and an MA in bioethics from Loyola University Chicago. He is the author of* Is It God's Will? Making Sense of Tragedy, Luck, and Hope in a World Gone Wrong *(Morehouse)*.