

LENT TO HOLY WEEK

Week 1 Sunday 9 March
Week 2 Sunday 16 March
Week 3 Sunday 23 March
Week 4 Sunday 30 March
Week 5 Sunday 6 April
Week 6 Sunday 13 April

Holy week: 14 April to 19 April

We welcome you joining us on the Liturgical journey from Lent to Holy Week. This material reflects the Sunday sermons ensuring the whole church are on the same page and can take the learnings deeper with scripture readings, daily devotions and questions for group discussions. May you draw closer to God whilst learning His truths, find the journey transformative and experience God's love for you in a very deep and real way.

Week 6 Sunday 13 April – God's personal visit

Holy week: 14 April to 19 April

Bring God into the meeting with prayer, lighting a candle, listening to a worship song.

Hosanna by Hillsong Worship - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hnMevXQutyE>

Read the Bible readings provided:

Liturgical Date: Liturgy of the Palms

First reading:

Psalm: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Second reading:

Gospel: Luke 19:28-40

Luke 19:28-40 The Message

God's Personal Visit

²⁸⁻³¹ After saying these things, Jesus headed straight up to Jerusalem. When he got near Bethphage and Bethany at the mountain called Olives, he sent off two of the disciples with instructions: "Go to the village across from you. As soon as you enter, you'll find a colt tethered, one that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it. If anyone says anything, asks, 'What are you doing?' say, 'His Master needs him.'" ³²⁻³³ The two left and found it just as he said. As they were untying the colt, its owners said, "What are you doing untying the colt?" ³⁴ They said, "His Master needs him." ³⁵⁻³⁶ They brought the colt to Jesus. Then, throwing their coats on its back, they helped Jesus get on. As he rode, the people gave him a grand welcome, throwing their coats on the street. ³⁷⁻³⁸ Right at the crest, where Mount Olives begins its descent, the whole crowd of disciples burst into enthusiastic praise over all the mighty works they had witnessed: Blessed is he who comes the king in God's name! All's well in heaven! Glory in the high

places! ³⁹ Some Pharisees from the crowd told him, “Teacher, get your disciples under control!” ⁴⁰ But he said, “If they kept quiet, the stones would do it for them, shouting praise.”

A reflection on the Bible reading by: Rev Thabiso Mcinga

As the journey toward the cross draws near, we read this pericope with vivid imagination, picturing the sights, the sounds, the emotions of that moment in history. It must have been a powerful and beautiful experience to witness Jesus entering Jerusalem yet deeply layered with so much paradox. Jesus approached the city with full awareness of what awaited him, not a throne, but a cross. His steps were deliberate, weighted with sorrow and yet steady with determination. Meanwhile, the crowd that gathered around him was caught up in joy and excitement. They had seen how he healed the sick, restored the broken, and even raised the dead. To them, Jesus was the long-awaited prophet, maybe even the political Messiah who would finally break the chains of Roman oppression.

But as we linger in that moment, we realize that the people were rejoicing over a version of Jesus they had imagined and not the Jesus who was truly present among them. Their excitement was real, but so were their assumptions. They expected power, not sacrifice, a sword, not a cross. Like the crowd, we often carry our own expectations into our relationship with Christ, expecting him to fix things quickly, to bless us materially, to make life easier and more comfortable.

Many of us look for Jesus to meet our immediate needs: to open financial doors, to protect us from suffering, to smooth the rough places in our lives. And while it's not wrong to hope in God's provision, the triumphal entry reminds us that Jesus came for a much deeper purpose. He came not only to change our circumstances, but to change us. He came to teach us humility in a world obsessed with status, to offer peace where we seek power and to bring healing that goes beyond what is visible. When the Pharisees tried to silence the praise of the crowd, Jesus said, “If they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.” This reminds us that God's will moves forward with or without our understanding.

As we stand on the threshold of Holy Week, we must ask: What are we expecting from Jesus? Are we open to the unexpected ways he wants to meet us and not with easy answers, but with deep transformation? Are we prepared to follow him not just in celebration, but in sacrifice? This scripture invites us to let go of small expectations and embrace the eternal work that Christ is doing in us and through us. Let us not miss him by expecting too little.

Questions for contemplation:

1. What are some of the expectations you currently bring to your relationship with Jesus?
2. In what ways might you, like the crowd in the passage, misunderstand or limit the mission of Jesus in your life?
3. What does this narrative teach you about the importance of praise and witnessing for Christ, especially when it may be uncomfortable or unpopular?

Daily lectionary readings:

Monday of Holy Week

Calendar Date: Apr 14, 2025

First reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm: Psalm 36:5-11

Second reading: Hebrews 9:11-15

Gospel: John 12:1-11

Tuesday of Holy Week

Calendar Date: Apr 15, 2025

First reading: Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm: Psalm 71:1-14

Second reading: I Corinthians 1:18-31

Gospel: John 12:20-36

Wednesday of Holy Week

Calendar Date: Apr 16, 2025

First reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm: Psalm 70

Second reading: Hebrews 12:1-3

Gospel: John 13:21-32

Maundy Thursday

Calendar Date: Apr 17, 2025

First reading: Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14

Psalm: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Gospel: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday

Calendar Date: Apr 18, 2025

First reading: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalm: Psalm 22

Second reading: Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

Gospel: John 18:1-19:42

Holy Saturday

Calendar Date: Apr 19, 2025

First reading: Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24

Psalm: Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16

Second reading: 1 Peter 4:1-8

Gospel: Matthew 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42



FAMILY TIME:

Written by Jenny Blake – CHILDREN'S PASTOR

Week 6 - **God's Personal Visit**

Scripture: Luke 19:28-40 (The Message)

Key Verse: “Blessed is he who comes, the King in God’s name! All’s well in heaven! Glory in the high places!”
(Luke 19:38)

Introduction

Have you ever had someone *really* special come to visit? Maybe a grandparent, a best friend, or someone you admire? When an important guest arrives, we often prepare something special for them. In today’s story, Jesus enters Jerusalem as the most important visitor of all—God Himself, coming to His people!

Bible Story Recap

Jesus and His disciples were on their way to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. Before arriving, Jesus sent two of His disciples to get a donkey, just as it had been prophesied long ago. As He rode into the city, people laid their coats on the road, waving palm branches and shouting, “**Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!**”

But not everyone was happy. Some religious leaders told Jesus to quiet the crowd. Jesus responded, “**If they kept quiet, the stones would do it for them, shouting praise.**”

Jesus’ entrance wasn’t like that of a typical king—He didn’t come on a warhorse but on a donkey, a sign of peace. He came not to conquer cities, but to conquer hearts.

Family Discussion Questions

1. **Why did the people celebrate Jesus as He entered Jerusalem?**
Talk about how they saw Him as the promised King.
2. **What does Jesus riding a donkey instead of a warhorse tell us about His mission?**
Discuss how Jesus came to bring peace and love, not war.

3. **What do you think Jesus meant when He said the stones would cry out?**

Share how all creation recognizes God's greatness, even when people don't.

Teen Discussion Questions

1. **The crowd celebrated Jesus, but later, many turned against Him. What does this teach us about faith that lasts?**

Talk about how real faith isn't just excitement but commitment.

2. **Jesus received both praise and criticism. How should we handle it when we follow Him and people don't understand?**

Encourage trust in God even when facing opposition.

3. **If Jesus personally visited your home today, how would you welcome Him?**

Reflect on what it means to invite Jesus into daily life.

Activity: Palm Branch Parade

As a family, wave homemade palm branches (made from green paper or real leaves) and shout, **"Hosanna! Jesus is King!"** Discuss how we can praise Jesus daily, not just on special occasions.

Prayer

"Dear Jesus, You are the King of Kings, and we welcome You into our hearts. Help us to praise You not just with words but with our lives. May we always celebrate Your presence. Amen."