

MARCH 24, 2024
PALM/PASSION
SUNDAY



Jesus' entry into Jerusalem gives us hope.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

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| Sunday | Mark 11:1-11 | Jesus enters Jerusalem |
| Monday | Mark 14:1–15:47 | The passion of Jesus |
| Tuesday | Isaiah 50:4-9a | A servant song |
| Wednesday | Philippians 2:5-11 | The Christ hymn |
| Thursday | Zechariah 9:9-13 | Judgment on Israel's enemies |
| Friday | John 18:1–19:42 | The passion of Jesus |
| Saturday | Psalms 31:9-16 | Prayer for deliverance |
| Sunday | John 20:1-18 | The tomb is empty |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,
"Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"*

Mark 11:9 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, help us to see beyond our short-sightedness to the hope that is for all of us through the cross of Christ, that we may have life. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, blessed are you, the one who comes to us with this gift of food in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the steadfast love of God give you peace and hope.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK



*Ride On, Ride On in
Majesty!*

WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Think or tell about a time when you or someone you know felt rejected or sad.
- What is it about God's steadfast love that is deserving of your praise, especially as you think about Jesus' journey to the cross?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Mark 11:1-11.

It is not just by chance that the crowds who shout, "Hosanna!" days later also shout, "Crucify him" (Mark 15:13). This contrast leads us to look back to the beginning of the Gospel of Mark where Jesus' first message is, "the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news" (Mark 1:15b). To repent is to change one's mind, to see new things, and to see things differently. The crowds shouting, "Hosanna" have a customary view of power and authority. The power Jesus brings is quite different from the authority of leaders filled with jealousy and fear like the high priests and Pilate, the Roman governor. Jesus' humble rule is displayed from a colt and is filled with self-giving love that conquers all, even triumphing over his own rejection and death. Palm Sunday points to a kingdom with good news and hope for the rejected and those who feel powerless. To truly hear the good news is to repent of anything less than Jesus' rule that alone gives us reason to say, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord" (v. 9).

Discuss: What makes it difficult for you to see Jesus' power and glory from the cross?

Pray: **God of power and might, in a world torn apart by fear and jealousy, help us to see in your reign on earth the true source of hope through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you bring hope to someone who may be feeling rejected?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Palm Sunday signals the beginning of Holy Week. As Jesus enters Jerusalem, he knows the week will not end the way the people praising him will want. And yet, Jesus accepts the people's dreams and hopes and takes them to the cross with him. He turns those dreams and hopes into something more. Light six candles of the seven votive candles shaped like a cross being used for Lent. Sit in silence for a moment while looking at the cross.

Then pray: **Lord Jesus, you gave your life for us. Help us to live for you. Amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org