

APRIL 5, 2020

PALM SUNDAY (LITURGY OF THE PALMS)

Jesus is our humble, gentle King.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.

We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Sunday Matthew 21:1-11 Jesus enters Jerusalem

Monday Matthew 21:42-46 The stone the builders rejected

Tuesday Matthew 26:6-13 Jesus anointed at Bethany

Wednesday Matthew 26:14-16 Judas agrees to betray Jesus

Thursday Matthew 26:17-30 The Last Supper

Friday Matthew 27:1,33-50 Jesus dies on the cross

Saturday Matthew 27:57-60 The burial of Jesus

Sunday Matthew 28:1-10 He has risen!

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” Matthew 21:9 (NIRV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, our King: Come and rule in our lives so that we are humble and gentle like you. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, as we gather this week, may we remember all that you have done for us, and all that you call us to do for others. Bless this food to strengthen us in your service. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus rule as King in your life. May he bless you with his kindness and fill your heart with praise. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Have you ever attended a parade? What do you remember?
- Jesus was greeted by a large crowd when he entered Jerusalem. If he had come to your town or city, how would you have welcomed him?
- Why do you think Jesus chose to ride on a donkey? What does this say to you about him compared to other kings?

DEVOTIONS

Find a bare branch and place it in a pot. Each day of Holy Week, attach a different symbol to the branch and read the associated Scripture passage.

Palm Sunday: Matthew 21:1-9. Place twigs and strips of cloth at the foot of the branch to symbolize the cloaks and branches spread on the road for Jesus.

Monday: Matthew 21:42-46. Place a stone at the foot of the branch to symbolize Jesus, the stone that was rejected.

Tuesday: Matthew 26:6-13. Hang a small bottle of perfume from the branch.

Wednesday: Matthew 26:14-16. Hang a bag of coins on the branch.

Maundy Thursday: Matthew 26:17-30. Place a small plate and cup at the foot of the branch as a reminder of the Last Supper.

Good Friday: Matthew 27:1,33-50. Hammer small nails into the branch and attach a sign reading, “This is Jesus, King of the Jews.”

Saturday: Matthew 27:57-60. Place a black cloth over the branch.

Easter Sunday: Matthew 28:1-10. Remove the black cloth and decorate the branch with flowers, paper butterflies or paper streamers.

SERVICE

Make a household act of service a “must” in your observance of Holy Week (e.g. contact an elderly neighbor and offer your help with household cleaning or gardening; or prepare food to donate to a food pantry supporting the needy).

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This week, we remember the journey of Jesus from his entry into Jerusalem to his last meal, trial, crucifixion, death and resurrection. These stories are central to our faith. Let the structure of Holy Week guide your home activities. It’s especially helpful to plan for Friday and Saturday to be quiet, at-home days, with few scheduled activities. Plan simple meals and cut back on treats and use of media. Agree on times when you can gather together to reflect on the events of Jesus’ Passion.

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