



Small Group Study Guide for February 14, 2021

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: On Palm Sunday the Holy Church gathers and celebrates with solemn joy the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem. Thus, Holy Week begins as the Church remembers the events surrounding the Passion of Our Lord. Christ rides upon a donkey fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9. Though He may not look like much of a King, we know that this truly is the Lord of the Universe making His way into Jerusalem in order to continue on the road to His crucifixion and death.

Getting Started:

1. Jesus made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, have you ever witnessed a grand entrance or procession (such as a presidential escort, etc.)?
2. When you hear about such grand occasions what do you typically expect to see/happen at a “triumphal entry.”

In the Word: Mark 11:1-11. Please read through this section of the text.

3. God rarely seems to act the way we expect He ought to. So when God comes to save the world, we can expect something different. Remember, He was born in a borrowed stable and cradled in a feeding trough. He was enthroned on a cross and crowned with thorns. When He make His grand and glorious entrance into His Holy City, He comes astride a borrowed burro, a dinky donkey rather than a steed of war. What does that tell us about Jesus?
4. Take a look at Zechariah 9:9-13. Jesus’ triumphal entry is the fulfillment of this old prophecy. Keeping the words of Zechariah in mind, what do we learn about Jesus?
5. As Jesus rides on the donkey and makes His way to Jerusalem, He encounters pilgrims on their way to the City for the Feast of Passover. These pilgrims cry out to Jesus, “Hosanna!” meaning, “Lord, save us!” We too shout and cry out “Hosanna!” How does that shape our view of what is going on as we remember Palm Sunday?

Putting it Together

6. The sermon referenced the great and majestic triumphal entry of Alexander the Great into Babylon. While Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem did not look very special in comparison, we know that it truly *was* His triumphal entry. He arrives and announces His Kingship. We have been claimed by Him and live under His rule. What does that mean for us?

7. When a king would conquer a city and make his triumphal entry, the inhabitants of the city would have been wise to expect harsh treatment, hard labor, etc. In the case of Jesus, He comes not to conquer Jerusalem or the world, but our sin and death. He comes as the King who *serves*. How do we see King Jesus serving throughout Holy Week and His continued work today?

8. The sermon heavily emphasized the incredible reality that this *same* King who made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday also makes His triumphal entry in the worship service *every single week*. What are some of the ways that Jesus does this? In what ways is this *same* King brought to us today?

9. An interesting emphasis from the Lutheran Fathers (early orthodox Lutheran theologians from 16th-17th centuries) was that the Cross is Jesus' throne, from which He reigns and rules as King of all. Why do you think that that was an emphasis of their writings in regard to the Crucifixion? How can that be helpful in shaping our understanding of the Passion of Our Lord?

Prayer: Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.