



Small Group Study Guide for April 13, 2025

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey He was coming as the true King of Israel. John tells us that the crowds had come out to meet Him because of the signs He did in raising Lazarus from the dead. As Jesus rode in, the crowds shouted Hosanna, which means, "Save us, now!" Jesus would save mankind, but not in the way the crowd imagined. His salvation would exceed what anyone could have imagined. His salvation came not by sitting on an earthly throne, but by being nailed to a cross.

Getting Started: (sharing with each other)

1. Do you enjoy attending parades? What makes parades attracting and exciting for people?
2. What are your recollections of the first Palm Sunday service you attended? What is significant about Palm Sunday?

In the Word: John 12:12-19

3. Each Gospel records Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem highlighting the significance of the event. In John's Gospel, he tells us that some of the crowd had come out to meet Jesus because of the sign He performed from raising Lazarus from the dead. John 12:12 begins by saying, "*The next day* the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem." To understand the context of the triumphal entry read John 12:1-11. What happened the day before Jesus entered Jerusalem? What is the significance of Mary anointing Jesus?
4. In verse 13, the crowd shouted out, "Hosanna!" which means, *save us*. This is likely being quoted from Psalm 118:25-26. This psalm may have been used in celebrations when David was king or when the second temple was built. Read Psalm 118:25-26 and compare it John 12:13. What is similar? What is different between the two?
5. The donkey in Jesus' entry into Jerusalem plays a significant role. First, it is a direct fulfillment of Zechariah 9:9. Secondly, in this moment it carries the Son of God before Jesus would carry the sins of the world. Thirdly, it was not the common animal that a King would have ridden on during Roman times. Which of these things stands out to you the most?

6. John 12:16 says, “His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him.” What are some things that are hard to understand about Jesus? Where might you turn to, to better understand Jesus?
7. At the end of verse 19, the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are gaining nothing. Look the whole world has gone after him.” What is the irony of their frustrated statement? In what ways did Jesus go after the world (John 3:16) to show them that he was the savior?

Putting it all Together (what do we believe or do as disciples?)

8. Palm Sunday ties together many themes. The crowd *expected* that Jesus would save them by being an earthly king. In what ways do we have wrong expectations of Jesus?
9. The resurrection caused many to bear witness about Jesus. Holy week is guiding us towards the resurrection of the dead which we will celebrate on Easter. In what way does knowing this hope help you bear witness to others about Jesus?
10. It is interesting that John adds the words, “**fear not**, daughter of Zion,” to Zechariah’s prophecy. What are some fears we face in this life? How does knowing that Jesus is the King of the world help us when we are afraid?

Prayer: Ask God the Father to bring about the joy of salvation and put it on your heart and mind so that you might proclaim that to people around you. Ask Jesus when you are afraid to show that He is king over this world. Ask that the Holy Spirit would give you a spirit of humility just as Jesus had when He entered into Jerusalem. Ask the Spirit to help us slow down as we journey through Holy week together, awaiting the hope we have through all that Jesus accomplished.