

Weekly Study Guide

The week of March 29, 2015

Daily Readings

Monday	Luke 19:28-46	Tuesday	Matthew 21:1-13	Wednesday	Mark 11:1-11
Thursday	Mark 11:12-25	Friday	Zechariah 9:9	Saturday	Luke 13:34-35

Next Week in Worship

This next week is truly a holy week. Please join us for worship on Maundy Thursday (April 2) and Good Friday (April 3) to experience the important events from the end of Jesus' earthly life. Then be sure to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday morning (April 5). Our worship service schedule is below.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 2

5:30 p.m. Traditional Communion Service
7 p.m. Blended Communion Service*

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3

5:30 p.m. Contemporary Service*
7 p.m. Traditional Service*

RESURRECTION SUNDAY, APRIL 5

7 a.m. Traditional Communion Service
7:30 a.m. Contemporary Communion Service
9 a.m. Contemporary and Traditional Communion Services*
10:30 a.m. Contemporary and Traditional Communion Services*
*Nursery Available

first lutheran church

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Group Discussion

Connect

The crowds outside Jerusalem gave Jesus a first century ticker tape parade. Do you like parades? Do you have a favorite?

Learn

Palm Sunday is a holiday that remembers Jesus' triumphant welcome to Jerusalem about a week before he was killed. Read the story of this journey in Luke 19:28-40. (If you'd like to read two other versions of the same event, you can find them in Mark 11:1-11 and Matthew 21:1-11.)

- How would you describe what was happening here? What seems to be the mood or reaction of the crowds?
- Read Zechariah 9:9. This was an old prophecy that Jesus and the crowds would probably both have known. How does this influence your understanding of the events?
- In Jesus' day, conquering kings rode into town on their warhorses. Jesus enters on a humble donkey. What do you think this was meant to show?

Read Luke 19:41-44. As Jesus drew near to the eastern gate into Jerusalem, the crowd cheered but he wept. Clearly they were having two different experiences and understandings of what was happening.

- What has happened that makes Jesus sad for the people of ancient Jerusalem?
- What does Jesus say is going to happen to them because of this?

There were many different ways that the Jewish people of Jesus' day tried to ensure God's victory and salvation in the world. The Pharisees aimed for stricter obedience to the law. The Sadducees tried to sit in the seats of governmental power. The Zealots tried a military or paramilitary approach. Jesus wept for them all because they rejected the way of the Kingdom of God was in him, the way of sacrificial love of God and neighbor, the way of the cross.

- The people who welcomed Jesus with the first Palm Sunday parade assumed Jesus would be the kind of leader they already knew. Imagine asking a stranger who Jesus is or what Jesus is about. What might they say?
- How do we misunderstand Jesus today?

Apply

Do you think Jesus and His Kingdom agenda are truly welcome among us or in you? How is Jesus inviting you to turn and follow His way?

Pray

Next week is Easter, an especially good week for inviting friends to church with you. Pray together for those you have invited or pray about people God might want you to invite to join you next Sunday.