

April 13, 2025
Preparing for Easter: Jesus Comes as King
Message Reflection Questions

Scripture Focus:

Mark 11:1–11

Matthew 21:1–11

Luke 19:28–44

(Zechariah 9:9 for prophetic context)

Opening Question

When you think of Palm Sunday, what images, memories or emotions come to mind?
How did you first learn this story?

Digging into the Text

Read Mark 11:1–11, Matthew 21:1–11, and Luke 19:28–44 aloud together.

1. Compare and contrast the Gospel accounts:
 - a. What details stand out in each version?
 - b. How do the different writers emphasize different aspects of the story?
2. Luke 19:41–44 describes Jesus weeping over Jerusalem:
 - a. Why do you think Jesus was overcome with emotion?
 - b. What does this tell us about his heart for people—even those who would reject him?
3. Zechariah 9:9 is quoted in Matthew's account:
 - a. How does this prophecy deepen our understanding of Jesus' entrance?
 - b. What kind of king does this describe?

Understanding the Context

4. Two processions entered Jerusalem that day:
 - a. One represented empire, power and control (Pilate's); the other, humility, peace and divine authority (Jesus'.
 - b. How does this historical background affect your understanding of what Jesus was doing?
5. Jesus' procession was intentionally subversive:
 - a. What risks did Jesus take by doing this publicly?
 - b. Why do you think he chose to act in this bold way at this time?

Bringing It Home

6. Which procession are you following?
 - a. In your day-to-day life, where are you tempted to follow the "Pilate procession" of power, control and self-preservation?
 - b. What does it look like to instead walk in the way of Jesus—humble, peaceful and subversive?

7. Think about modern-day “processions”:
 - a. Where do you see competing ideologies, powers or leaders vying for your allegiance today (e.g., politics, media, culture)?
 - b. How can you practice discernment as a follower of Jesus in the midst of these?
8. Proclaiming Jesus as King is a bold act:
 - a. What might it look like in your life to publicly and personally declare Jesus as King—over your priorities, relationships, finances and values?

Spiritual Practice/Challenge

Reflection Exercise: This week, take 5–10 minutes each day to reflect on this question: “Am I walking in the procession of Christ today, or have I been tempted by another?” Journal your response or share with a friend for accountability.

Closing Prayer

Invite the group to pray for courage to walk in the humble and bold way of Jesus, even when it’s unpopular or misunderstood.