



WEEKLY STUDY

Palm Sunday

We started Holy Week with a parade (and an EggHunt!). That's how Jesus' last week started as he rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. He was heralded as King. This week, we will follow Jesus through the difficult journey from Palm Sunday to the cross. Spend time each day reflecting on the passion of Christ. He knew what lay ahead for him, and it wasn't easy, yet for our sake he walked this road. Let's walk with him this week as we prepare our hearts to celebrate resurrection next Sunday.

Please note our prayer focus for the week in the box below. Join us in seeing what God will do as we unite in prayer.

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from your own daily reflections and consider the Group Discussion questions below. If you would like to get connected visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Prayer Focus:

- Pray that we all might live with humility as Jesus demonstrated for us by washing his disciples' feet.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: JOHN 12.12-19(NIV)

The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem.¹³ They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting,

“Hosanna!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Blessed is the king of Israel!”

¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

¹⁵ “Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion;
see, your king is coming,
seated on a donkey’s colt.”

¹⁶ At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

¹⁷ Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. ¹⁸ Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him. ¹⁹ So the Pharisees said to one another, “See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!”

- In this Palm Sunday scene, Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of Zechariah and demonstrated a deep humility that seems opposite of most kings and rulers at any period of world history. Who chooses a lowly donkey for their triumphal entry? And yet, crowds came with cheers of adoration and pleas for salvation. What is expected of leaders today? Can you think of leaders who take the approach of humility? What does it say about Jesus that he would choose this kind of entry into the city?
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- **Prayer Prompt: Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!
Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you,
righteous and victorious,
lowly and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey. (Zechariah 9.9)**
- *God, humble me today. If taking the lowly path is what brings glory to you, I will do so. Amen.*

TUESDAY: JOHN 12.20-28 (NIV)

Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.” ²² Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

²³ Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵ Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

²⁷ “Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!”

- Jesus was setting the stage for the week ahead. He had demonstrated what it means to die-to-self. To lay down your life, even while you live, is the only way to bear much fruit. Jesus was becoming a grain of wheat for the world. His willingness to ride on a lowly donkey was just an indicator of the kind of love he has for the world—the kind of love that led to his own death. He was the seed that entered the ground so that we might have life. How do you respond to this kind of talk from Jesus?
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- **Prayer Prompt: The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;**

²³ **the LORD has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴ **The LORD has done it this very day;
let us rejoice today and be glad.**

²⁵ **LORD, save us!
LORD, grant us success! (Psalm 119.22-25)**

- *Jesus, I am amazed at your willingness to give your life for the sake of the world. May my life bear fruit that reflects your gift of love. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: MATTHEW 26.14-16 (NIV)

Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests ¹⁵ and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?” So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶ From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

- On Wednesday of that week, Judas’ set in motion the arrest of Jesus. Judas had been with Jesus this whole time. He was one of the twelve who heard Jesus’ teaching daily and witnessed his miracles. “What are you willing to give me if I deliver him to you?” he asked. Can you imagine a prize big enough to betray a friend, much less the One you believed to be the Son of God?
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- **Prayer Prompt: Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. ⁴ And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. (Luke 22.3-4)**
 - *God, guard me against the temptation to gain from others' misery. You are worth more than gold or silver. Amen.*

THURSDAY: JOHN 13.2-17 (NIV)

²The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

⁷Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

⁸"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

⁹"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

¹⁰Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." ¹¹For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

¹²When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

- The Last Supper was the scene of Jesus' humble act of service. He washed his disciples' feet, and told them to become servants as well. It is such a rare scene to see the most powerful person in the room stoop to serve others with such humility. It would seem out of character and out of context if we had not heard the words of Jesus and seen him riding on a donkey just a few days ago. How does this act of Jesus impact the way you see your role as one of his followers?
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- **Prayer Prompt: I offered my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard;
I did not hide my face
from mocking and spitting.**
⁷ **Because the Sovereign LORD helps me,
I will not be disgraced. (Isaiah 50.6-7)**
 - *O God, the humility of Jesus was on full display. I confess that it does not seem to be my natural inclination to do the same. Give me opportunities to serve like Christ. Amen.*

FRIDAY: PSALM 22.1-10 (NIV)

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

*Why are you so far from saving me,
so far from my cries of anguish?*

² *My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,
by night, but I find no rest.*

³ *Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One;
you are the one Israel praises.*

⁴ *In you our ancestors put their trust;
they trusted and you delivered them.*

⁵ *To you they cried out and were saved;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.*

⁶ *But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by everyone, despised by the people.*

⁷ *All who see me mock me;
they hurl insults, shaking their heads.*

⁸ *“He trusts in the LORD,” they say,
“let the LORD rescue him.*

*Let him deliver him,
since he delights in him.”*

⁹ *Yet you brought me out of the womb;
you made me trust in you, even at my mother’s breast.*

¹⁰ *From birth I was cast on you;
from my mother’s womb you have been my God.*

- Jesus quoted these words as he hung on the cross on Friday. He was the picture of faithfulness and yet, in his humanity, he wrestled with the sense that he was all alone in his agony. Have you ever faced suffering that you knew had a purpose and yet you wanted to flee? Have you ever felt that God had left you all alone? As you name those places, re-read the Psalm quoted by Jesus. Where do you find hope in it?
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- **Prayer Prompt: And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! (Philippians 2.8)**
- *God, your Son humbled himself so that I might find my life in you. It's a painful story to read, but I am grateful for the life it offers me. Amen.*

SATURDAY: LUKE 23.55-56 (NIV)

The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. ⁵⁶ Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

- For those who loved Jesus, Saturday must have seemed like a long day. It must have been the loudest silence they had ever experienced. Like we often are in the days after a death, the women were ready for action. What could they do to distract themselves from their grief? They were prepared to get the body of Jesus ready for final burial. But they followed the Sabbath commandment to rest instead. Their obedience set the stage for the world's biggest miracle.
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- **Prayer Prompt: so he will sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of him. For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard, they will understand. (Isaiah 52.15)**
- *God, sit with me in the quiet of this day. There are days when it seems like your absence is the loudest thing. Yet I know you are there, preparing for my resurrection. Amen.*

GROUP DISCUSSION

As a group, reread this portion of Pastor Jacob's sermon from Sunday,

"Christians are people of the Cross. We don't ignore suffering or deny suffering or play like everything is ok. We know the world is broken. We know that we are broken. We know that we are sinners. And we need the cross. And we need a savior, and we have one, His name is Jesus. Savior and King!"

- Does it seem like the world ignores suffering? Do we pretend like it isn't broken?
- What are the advantages to naming the brokenness of our human condition?
- How can followers of Jesus be a part of addressing the sin and suffering of our world?