

DISCUSSION GUIDE || March 29–April 4, 2026

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **STATIONS OF THE CROSS** come-and-go art and prayer experience **Friday from 4–7pm**
- **GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP SERVICE** this **Friday at 7pm**
- **EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP** this **Sunday at 10am**

REFLECT on This Season

1. *Where are you on **your journey with Jesus and others** now at the end of Lent and the beginning of Holy Week?*

REMEMBER

- On a Spring Sunday 2,000 years ago, Jesus rode into Jerusalem amid a procession that was staged as a **prophetic parody** of the historical military parades of Pilate, Alexander the Great, and others.
- Everything about Jesus' triumphal entry carried echoes for those with "eyes to see." The **cloaks** on the ground were reminiscent of royalty in 2 Kings 9; the **palm branches** reminded the people of the famous Maccabean revolt that briefly recaptured Jerusalem (and inspired the celebration of Hanukkah); the shouts of "**Hosanna**" quoted the Passover praise song, Psalm 118; and, of course, the **donkey** and her colt in Zechariah 9.9—a **signal of God's chosen, humble King coming to Jerusalem**.

READ Matthew 21.1-11

REFLECT on the **passage**

2. ***What word, phrase, or observation** is the most interesting to you from this familiar passage? **Why?***
3. *What do you assume **the crowd's expectations** to be? How might those expectations **surface in our world**—either on a global level or in the thoughts of everyday people in our area?*
4. *What does this passage reveal to you about **Jesus' intentions, actions, or character?** What do you think he'd like **the crowd** to understand? What about **our world today?***
5. *How has Jesus **challenged your own expectations or aspirations?** **What impact** did that have on your understanding or your relating to God and others?*
6. *Hosanna is a Bible word that means "Save us." It can be used both as a cry for help and a shout of praise. **What's your own personal "Hosanna" prayer** at the moment? Do you have a thanksgiving to offer or a burden to bring to God?*
7. *What can we **pause and pray** for right now?*