



Sunday Morning Grow Groups

March 24, 2024

Palm Sunday

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Holy Week Schedule:
 - Thursday, March 28, Maundy Thursday, 7 pm worship
 - Friday, March 29, Good Friday, 12 pm and 7 pm worship
- Sunday, March 31, Easter, 8:30 am and 10:45 am worship
 - No GROW groups

SHARING AND CONNECTING

What is your favorite jelly bean flavor?

What is your favorite Spring flower?

THEME FOR THE WEEK –

Since at least the fourth century in the church, Christians have kept the Sunday before Easter as a memorial of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

READINGS

Hebrew Reading - Isaiah 50:4-9a

Today's reading describes the mission of the servant whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

⁴The Lord God has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he awakens—
awakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,

and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Questions for Conversation and Reflection:

1. *Open your Bibles to Isaiah and find another reference to the **Servant** (there are several). Why did the early Church associate these references to Jesus?*
2. *Where do you see the Servant trusting God in this passage? How can you be more like the Servant in your own life?*

Gospel: Mark 11:1-11

Jesus enters Jerusalem

¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” ⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹¹Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Questions for Conversation and Reflection:

1. *Immerse yourself in Mark's telling of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. What surprised? How do you experience the story differently?*
2. *If Jesus entered the Dallas Metroplex today, how would we welcome Him? What would we throw on the ground to pave His way?*

QUICK REMINDER:

Remember...No GROW group next week. See you in worship to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord!

CLOSING PRAYER:

(Offer any prayer requests to the group and pray with and for each other)

But as for me, I trust in you, O LORD.

"You are my God.

**Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.**

Amen.

(Adapted from Psalm 13)