

MARCH 25, 2018
PALM/PASSION SUNDAY



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

All Glory, Laud and Honor



CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- Talk about a time you thought you did something very well.
- What are the marks of a successful life?
- God's story of victory over sin and death leads Jesus to die obediently on the cross. Talk about how difficult this is for us to accept or understand when Jesus' death does not look like a triumph to the world.

At the cross Jesus is declared God's Son.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 15:1-39	The passion of Jesus
Monday	Mark 11:1-11	Jesus enters Jerusalem
Tuesday	Isaiah 50:4-9a	A Servant Song
Wednesday	Philippians 2:5-11	The Christ Hymn
Thursday	John 13:1-17, 31b-35	Jesus washes disciples' feet
Friday	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	God's suffering servant
Saturday	Psalms 31	Prayer for deliverance
Sunday	Mark 16:1-8	The tomb is empty

DEVOTIONS



Read: Mark 11:1-11.

As Jesus enters Jerusalem, he knows the week will not end the way the people praising him will want. And yet, Jesus accepts the people's dreams and hopes and takes them to the cross with him and turns those dreams and hopes into something more. Reflect on how some of your hopes and dreams are not filled with the message and kingdom Jesus brings.

Pray: Dear God, take my dreams and hopes and make them yours. Mold our wants into your reign of steadfast love and mercy, into a love of God and neighbor that makes all things new. In Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Mark 11:9 (NRSV)

SERVICE



Do you know someone who will spend Easter Sunday alone? Share your resurrection joy by inviting that person to lunch or dinner next Sunday.

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear Jesus, thank you for accepting both our praise and our hopes as you accept the suffering and death of the cross for our salvation. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Hosanna, praise to you, Lord God, for saving us and for feeding us. Hosanna to Christ the King. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's face shine upon you, and save you with the steadfast love of the Lord. (Psalm 31:16)

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Palm Sunday signals the beginning of Holy Week. Make crosses out of palms, construction paper, or wood to hold during prayer throughout Holy Week as a reminder to listen. Listening is a faith practice that includes listening with a faithful and discerning ear to God's word and judgement and listening to the voice and concerns of one's neighbor. Use Holy Week to give attention to your listening skills to wonder about God's care and will for you and all God has created. Listen to others for the concerns and passions of their lives and then take time to hold your cross and pray for them.