



March 13, 2025

The Women of Easter

Chapter 4 – With Palms Before Thee

Social Time

Thanks to those who brought treats!

Bible Study Business

Prayer Requests and Update Prayer List

Opening Prayer

Hymns – Lisa Schlotterbeck

- ELW 344 *All Glory Laud and Honor*
- ELW 325 *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*
- ELW 239 *Hark, The Glad Sound*

Scripture

John 12:9-19

⁹When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ¹⁰So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, ¹¹since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus.

¹²The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord— the King of Israel!" ¹⁴Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: ¹⁵"Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" ¹⁶His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him. ¹⁷So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify. ¹⁸It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him. ¹⁹The Pharisees then said to one another, "You see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!"

Luke 19:37-42

³⁷As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸saying, “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!” ³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” ⁴⁰He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

⁴¹As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, ⁴²saying, “If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.”

Matthew 21:1-17

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, ⁵“Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” ⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” ¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

¹²Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. ¹³He said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer’; but you are making it a den of robbers.” ¹⁴The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. ¹⁵But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did, and heard the children crying out in the temple, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they became angry ¹⁶and said to him, “Do you hear what these are saying?” Jesus said to them, “Yes; have you never read, ‘Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise for yourself?’” ¹⁷He left them, went out of the city to Bethany, and spent the night there.

Discussion

1. What is the most memorable parade you have ever experienced? Tell us about it!
2. What prompted the people to celebrate and praise Jesus as they did that first Palm Sunday? What is one of your favorite Palm Sunday memories?

3. On p. 71 our author tells us that the chief priests were not happy that “many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him” (John 12:11). Why not?
4. Why do you think “the priests didn’t understand that Jesus was their long-awaited Anointed One, the central figure of their own prophecies”? (p. 71)
5. In what ways does Jesus upset the status quo today?
6. As you read the account of the preparations for securing the donkey, the explanation of the reason for the foal to be with its mother, and the role of the women at the unfolding of that first Palm Sunday, what struck you anew about this story? (pp. 72-75)
7. Our author writes, “People willingly sacrificed their outer garments, knowing the fabric would be trampled by endless pairs of feet, in order to give Jesus a ‘royal welcome.’ They ‘threw down their coats’ and ‘carpeted the road with their clothing’ while the poor who could not spare their cloaks ‘cut leaves from palm trees and put them on the road.” (pp. 76-77) Had you understood the palm branches were used for this reason?
8. She continues, “They had to respond, had to honor Him as their king, had to show Him what was in their hearts, had to worship Him. Has the Lord’s presence ever washed over you like that?” (p. 77) Tell us about a time you were moved to worship.
9. She writes, “Worship isn’t a task. Worship is a response.” (p. 77) How do you understand worship?
10. Some of the Pharisees told Jesus, “Teacher rebuke your disciples!” (Luke 19:39) or in other words, “Get your disciples under control” (*The Message*). What were they so upset about?
11. What do you think of Jesus’ response, “I tell you if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out” (Luke 19:40) – p. 79.
12. What do you think prompted Jesus to weep as he approached Jerusalem? (Luke 19:41) p. 81.
13. When Jesus completed the triumphal entry, he arrived at the temple only to find the money changers there. How might that have made him feel? What prompted such an angry display from Jesus?
14. What message did driving the moneychangers out of the temple send to those who were watching? How does this action of Jesus speak to you?
15. As this historic day concludes, “Once the moneychangers scattered, ‘there was room for the blind and the crippled to get in.’ (*The Message*) “The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them.” (Matthew 21:14) What a fitting ending!

Birthdays

Palm Sunday Prayer: Come, Lord Jesus

Here is a thoughtful prayer (or short meditation?) for Palm Sunday from John Vest.
<http://johnvest.com>

Palm Sunday Prayer

God of transformation, we are reminded
**that Jesus' ride into Jerusalem was more than a show,
more than a simple provocation,
more than the beginning of a cute celebration.**

It was a signal that things are changing,
**an unmistakably potent message to the powers that be
that the world as we know it is becoming the world as it should be.**

It was a radical act of defiance directed against those in his day
who wielded power through violence, oppression, and tyranny.

It is no less radical, and no less tame, for those who do the same today.

This simple ride reminds us— and tells the whole world—
that you are indeed coming to make all things new.

You are coming to turn weapons of war into instruments of peace.

You are coming to release those who find themselves in all manners of bondage:
chains of injustice;
chains of addiction;
chains of conformity and apathy.

**You are coming to provide for the poor:
food for the hungry and shelter for the homeless.**

You are coming to assure the dignity and equality of all who are marginalized or oppressed.

**You are coming to end violence and divisions,
to provide safe communities and opportunities for education.**

You are coming to offer healing and wholeness, comfort, consolation, and hope.

**You are coming to transform all that we know.
You are coming to save us.**

But like humble Jesus riding into town on a lowly colt,
**you aren't coming in grandeur,
you aren't coming with thunder and lightning,
you aren't making an epic entrance.**

You're coming through the mystery of love incarnate,
through your church empowered by your Spirit,
through lives transformed and inspired,
through ordinary people like us,
blessed by you to do extraordinary things.

Come, gracious God into a world that longs for change,
a world that needs your love,
a world full of your own children,
a world ripe with hope and potential.

Blessed are those who come in your name, O God.
We have come.
We will go.

And now we pray— we pray for your coming kingdom emerging all around us,
 using the words Jesus taught us...

Lord's Prayer

Upcoming Schedule

Date	Pages	Topic
3/20	87-114	<i>Women of Easter 5 – O Most Afflicted!</i>
3/27	115-142	<i>Women of Easter 6 – Thorns Thine Only Crown</i>
4/3	143-166	<i>Women of Easter 7 – At the Cross Her Station Keeping</i>
4/10	167-194	<i>Women of Easter 8 – I Know that My Redeemer Lives</i>
4/17		Holy Week – No Bible Study
4/24		Pastor Marla on vacation Pastor Elaine to lead Bible Study on the topic of Prayer
		During May continue with <i>Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith</i>
5/1	10-12	Assemblies of God (Pentecostal)
5/8	114-116	Salvation Army
5/15	76-81	Judaism
5/22		Pre-Memorial Day Weekend – No Bible Study
5/29	67-71	Islam
		New Topic for the Summer – To be chosen