

**Ice Breaker:** What is one thing you are thankful for from last week?

### **Announcements**

- **GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE!!! This Friday @ 7pm on Facebook and our website**

### **Message:**

In this week's message, Roy walked us through the story behind Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday commemorates the day Jesus triumphantly entered Jerusalem. We find this story in Luke 19:28-44. Jesus gives instruction to his disciples to go and find a donkey on which no one has ridden and bring it to him. It is on this donkey that Jesus rides into Jerusalem. Roy pointed out that the animal on which a king rode into a city was significant in the ancient world. When a king rode into a city on a horse, it was a sign of war. On a donkey, a king's entrance communicated peace. Peace is the symbolic message Jesus, Israel's Messiah, is bringing to Jerusalem as he enters the city. It also evokes Zachariah's prophecy about a humble king riding a donkey (Zach. 9:9). Jesus's entrance into Jerusalem is clear: he is king and he brings peace.

As Jesus is entering into the city, a crowd gathers, lays down palm branches, and quotes Psalm 118:26 with joyful exclamation, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest" (Lk. 19:38). This quotation from Psalm 118 was part of the Jewish Hallel that would have been memorized and sung at the Passover season. As Roy pointed out, Jesus entered Jerusalem on the 10<sup>th</sup> of Nisan, which is also the day the Passover lamb would be presented. Jesus was entering Jerusalem not only as a peaceful king, but also as the Passover lamb.

It is this last point that no one recognized in the moment. Many in Jesus' day longed for the Messiah, but the Messiah they imagined was one who would liberate Israel from Roman bondage through military engagement. Jesus, the true Messiah, was instead a peaceful king who would offer himself as the Passover sacrifice. He is the messianic King Israel did not want, and would put to death in the most shameful of ways by the end of the week, but he was the King Israel (and the whole world) needed.

**Love Is Calling:** While we cannot gather in person, there are ways we can still continue to be present to and caring for one another. That is the idea behind the launch of the "Love Is Calling" campaign. For this campaign, the invitation is to call at least one person a day and ask three questions: 1) how are you? 2) Do you need anything? 3) How can I pray for you?

### **Discussion Points**

- Palm Sunday celebrates Jesus' joyful entrance into Jerusalem. Yet, Jesus knew as he entered that he was also entering into his last week before he would suffer tremendously and die. Our nation is entering into a week of projected suffering and death as the COVID-19 cases mount. How does Palm Sunday and this week before Easter Sunday help you see Jesus in this difficult time? What comforts you? What is difficult?
- As you think about Jesus' final week before he is crucified, what does hope look like?
- How can the Church be Jesus to the world in this season?
- Jesus is a humble King. What does humility look like right now?
- Jesus is a Passover lamb - a suffering servant. What does suffering look like right now?
- Jesus is the loving Lord. What does love look like right now?
- Who are some people you are going to call this week for the "Love is Calling" campaign?
- How are you feeling about this pandemic? Are there people you are concerned for? How can we be praying with and for one another?

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**Mission** - To know Christ and make Him known.