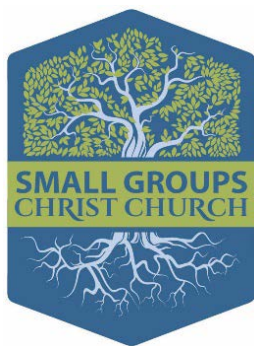


CHRIST CHURCH SMALL GROUPS

Palm Sunday – The Week beginning April 13, 2025



Read Luke 19:28-40:

After telling a parable to the crowd at Jericho, Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, “Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it.’” So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” They said, “The Lord needs it.” Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As 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, saying, “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!” Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

Background: Jesus, the King of Israel, enters Jerusalem, the Holy City of God. As he makes his way down from the Mount of Olives, his followers line the route and show their respect by placing their cloaks on the road as he approaches. (Notice that in the gospel of Luke, it is cloaks and not palms that are spread out on the ground.) His followers remember all the “deeds of power” that Jesus has done, and they now proclaim him King, confident that he will deliver his people from subjugation and oppression.

Talking Points:

- Jesus enters Jerusalem on the back of a colt, the foal of a donkey. What does this tell us about Jesus’ kingship and the kingdom of God?
- What is the difference between the rule of Caesar and the rule of Jesus? Can we live under both kings at the same time?
- In those days, a cloak was the most expensive article of clothing that most people owned, and it was never discarded. What is the most valuable item of our own that we can lay at Jesus’ feet?
- Holy Week is also known as Passion Week. Why do you think it is called the Passion of Jesus? How passionate are you in following Jesus?

True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you, that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory. Amen.