

PALM SUNDAY

Week of April 13, 2025

WATCH



LISTEN



Visit np.church/media to Watch or Listen.

REVIEW

This Palm Sunday we looked at Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, marking the beginning of the final week before His crucifixion. As crowds welcomed Him with shouts of "Hosanna," meaning "Save Us Now," we see that this event was significant, and orchestrated to fulfill prophetic scripture. While the people sought a political saviour to liberate them from Roman oppression, their true need was for spiritual salvation, which only Jesus could provide.

We need to reflect on our own expectations of Jesus and where we place our trust—whether in political systems or in Him as the true Savior. As Jesus rode into Jerusalem humbly on a donkey, fulfilling prophecy from Zechariah and Psalm 118, He demonstrated that God's plans often differ from our own expectations. Ultimately, while the people sought immediate deliverance, Jesus came to save them from sin and separation from God. We need to continually seek His presence and guidance, trusting that He knows what we truly need, even when the answers may not align with what we think is best.

MY STORY

1. Have you ever been in a situation where your expectations of God were unmet?
How did you respond?

2. What are some ways you've seen God work in your life even when things didn't go as planned?

3. When you think of the word "Hosanna," (Save us, please) what emotions or thoughts come to mind for you?

4. Can you recall a time when you felt a deep longing for salvation or deliverance?
How did that experience shape your faith?

DIGGING DEEPER

Read Matthew 21:1-11

1. Near the end of his life, Jesus was popular with most. Why do you think that was?

2. When Jesus rode into Jerusalem, the crowd treated him like a king. What did they expect him to do?

3. Many people were disappointed when Jesus didn't fulfill their expectations. Have you ever been disappointed when God didn't meet your expectations? What happened?

4. What are some unrealistic expectations we sometimes have of God? What can we do to keep our expectations of God rooted in truth?

5. In truth, their expectations that he would then become their king were too small. We do the same. Share a time that you may have expected too little of God.

6. Read Luke 19:41-42: Why do you think Jesus wept over Jerusalem? How does His compassion inform our perspective on spiritual blindness today?

7. In light of Jesus' tears for Jerusalem, how can you show compassion to those around you who may be spiritually blind?

8. 2 Corinthians 5:21: How does this verse explain the purpose of Jesus' crucifixion and ultimately the message of Palm Sunday?

9. Romans 5:8: What does this verse teach us about God's love in the context of Jesus' sacrifice? How can we apply this understanding in our daily lives?

TAKE IT HOME

If you have not made a decision to accept God's forgiveness through what Jesus did on the cross, you can pray this prayer:

"Lord Jesus, for too long I've kept you out of my life. I know that I am a sinner and that I cannot save myself. No longer will I close the door when I hear you knocking. By faith I gratefully receive your gift of salvation. I am ready to trust you as my Lord and Savior. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for coming to earth. I believe you are the Son of God who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead on the third day. Thank you for bearing my sins and giving me the gift of eternal life. I believe your words are true. Come into my heart, Lord Jesus, and be my Savior. Amen."

If you prayed this prayer, we would love to walk with you on this new life you are beginning. Visit us at www.np.church/nextsteps and click on "I Made A Decision To Follow Jesus"

THE LORDS SUPPER (Communion)

Take time to celebrate communion together as a group.

- Give each group member bread and juice to eat and drink.
- Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.
- Take some time to eat the bread, then drink the juice. As you do this, remember the sacrifice Jesus made so that you could have freedom from sin and death.
- Take a moment around your group to share what Jesus means to each person.

"For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (NIV)

PRAYER