

Growth Group Questions

Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026

Introduction

When the new WELS hymnal came out in 2021 the hymnal committee recommended beginning every church year with the Gospel reading of the Palm Sunday account. It was approved so we now hear about Jesus' triumphal entry twice a year. Why is this event fitting for both the start of Advent and the start of Holy Week?

Into the Word – Zechariah 9:9-10

1. Zechariah is sometimes called the "Holy Week" prophet and we've been looking at his book all Lenten season. Share any other sections you remember or look up a couple sections to marvel at what God revealed through him. (Zechariah 1:1-6; 11:7-13; 13:7-9; 8:14-17; 6:9-13; or 12:10-13)
2. Zechariah was a prophet in the years after Israel returned from exile. The temple had been destroyed. They had no powerful king. Most of the land wasn't under their control. Describe what the mood of the people must have been.
3. What specific comfort do you see for that generation in this text?
4. Describe the meaning of each of the descriptions of the coming king.
 - Righteous
 - Having salvation
 - Gentle
 - Proclaiming peace to the nations
 - Ruling from sea to sea

5. How is Christ our king today? How do we see his rule right now? In the future?

Into the Word – Philippians 2:5-11

6. What quality of Christ is stressed as a model for us?
7. Verses 6-8 make a contrast between Jesus' nature and Jesus' likeness. What is Paul saying about Jesus here?
8. Where did humility to God's plan lead Jesus? (Verse 8) Where does it ultimately lead him? (Verses 9-11)

Into the Word – Matthew 21:1-11

9. Twice in Holy Week we see Jesus tell his disciples where they will find something they need...and they find it exactly that way. What was the other time, and what do both remind us about Jesus in a week that he looks lowly?
10. What does "Hosanna" mean? Why is that especially fitting not only for who Jesus is but also this specific time coming into Jerusalem?
11. Find a hymnal and look up where in our liturgy we sing "hosanna." Why do you suppose we sing it there?

Closing Prayer Heavenly Father, bless us as we walk with Jesus on his final steps again this Holy Week. Turn our eyes ever to you. Lead us to appreciate Fill us with appreciation for Jesus' sacrifice and hope in his victory for us. Amen.