

Gather Together



Gentle Christ, we welcome you into our midst with shouts of "Hosanna!" Stay with us this week as we remember your life, death and resurrection. Bless us this week as we share meals with each other. Forgive us this week when we turn from you. Amen.



When did you welcome God this week?
When did you push God away?



✠ Jesus remembers you. ✠

Daily Readings



The daily readings for this week tell the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem and what he did in the days before his arrest. We encourage you to find a quiet time to read each day.

As you read, notice any passages that hold your attention. What in the passage speaks to you? Is it hopeful? Sad? Live-giving? Condemning? Share these passages with a friend, or spend some time in meditation.

Monday	John 12:1-11 - Mary Anoints Jesus
Tuesday	John 12:20-36 - Some Greeks wish to see Jesus
Wednesday	John 13:21-32 - Jesus Foretells His Betrayal
Thursday	John 13:1-17, 31b-35 - Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet
Friday	John 18:1-19:42 - The Passion of Christ
Saturday	Genesis 1:1-2:1 - The Creation

Faith Focus



Mark 11:1-11—Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem



Expectations can make or break a situation. Low expectations mixed with a great outcome can make for some of the best days of our lives. High expectations mixed with a bad experience can ruin a whole week, or more! Re-read the story of Palm Sunday and think about expectations.



How do you welcome Jesus into your heart? Is it with shouts of hosanna and palm branches? Or are you a little more wary?

Think about the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23). The people lining the street in Jerusalem as Jesus entered have an expectation of Jesus, and that acts like weeds and thorns. Others maybe see this supposed "great king" on a donkey and can't be bothered with the noise. Still others join the crowd, but quickly distance themselves from the whole situation when things get bad. Very few in the city really have any understanding of who Jesus is and what he as come to do, and even they have only the faintest idea.

Our only advantage in this story is time and history. We know how this story goes, and we can tell it by heart, but how well do we live it? The crowd expected Jesus to be a mighty, and maybe warrior, king, and he did not meet their expectation.

What is your expectation of Jesus? Does Jesus meet it, or do you need to let go of your expectation and meet Jesus where he is?