

Journey to the cross

Matthew 21:1-11

Jesus arrives in Jerusalem on a donkey, marking the beginning of his journey to the cross. He is welcomed by a large crowd; but others are perplexed, asking 'Who is this?' He is the 'Son of David', and 'the one who comes in the name of the Lord' are the responses.

Read this week's passage:



Living Scripture

'Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey' Matthew 21:5

In Philippians chapter 2, Paul speaks of Jesus humbling himself. We see this throughout the journey to the cross: in his choice of a donkey rather than a horse; in his silence during his humiliation by the High Priest and Pilate; in the removal of his robe at the cross and his being dressed up in a crown of thorns. The persecutors thought they had prevailed over Jesus – as bullies and the powerful always do – but in his humility and humiliation there is such dignity too, and all this for our sake.

The journey to the cross of Jesus is a unique and defining one. However, in different ways we see many echoes of others walking a journey to a 'cross'. In recent world history, we might think of President Zelensky in his simple clothes being publicly humiliated by Donald Trump and JD Vance and yet maintaining his dignity. There may be times in our lives when we are bullied or humiliated and walk our own journeys of pain. God, in Jesus, understands our pain because he has shared our pain, and because of what Jesus did for us on the journey to the cross, we know that humility and grace will win out.

First impressions

- In what ways does this Palm Sunday painting by Mark Jennings capture the essence of Holy Week?
- What does Holy Week tell us about the nature of God (who Jesus is) and the nature of humanity?
- How can you keep Christ central to your journey through Holy Week?



Create a Holy Week pathway outdoors. Go outside and use either chalks or natural resources to create Jesus' journey, in words and images, on the ground.



Gather up as many leaves as you can find. In a large, outside space, arrange them to spell the word 'HOSANNA'. Photograph your work and make it into your screen saver or background for Holy Week. You could also share it and send it to a friend to remind them to rejoice!



Read the whole of today's passages, Matthew 21:1-11 and Matthew 27:11-54. As you read, doodle the parts that stand out to you.

Pray



Lord Jesus, as we journey with you to the cross, we offer you our praise and our pain. Thank you that you entered into Jerusalem and went to Calvary for our forgiveness and healing. Help us to journey with you this week. Amen.



Bake a simnel cake or Easter biscuits to share with friends and family on Easter Sunday.

