

**Daily Bible Readings:**

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.  
Try to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	Matthew 21:1-11	Jesus enters Jerusalem
Monday	John 12:1-11	Jesus is anointed in Bethany
Tuesday	John 12:20-36	Jesus speaks of his death
Wednesday	John 13:21-32	Jesus foretells his betrayal
Thursday	John 13:1-17, 31b-35	Jesus washes his disciples' feet
Friday	John 18:1 – 19:42	The passion and death of Jesus
Saturday	Matthew 27:57-66	The burial of Jesus
Sunday	Matthew 28:1-10	He has risen!

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**Scripture Verse for this Week:**

"Hosanna to the Son of David!  
Blessed is the one who comes in  
the name of the Lord! Hosanna in  
the highest heaven!"  
Matthew 21:9 (NRSV)

- Cut out & carry with you.
- Say at each mealtime.
- Read at bedtime.
- Commit to memory.

**Prayers for the Week:**

"Lord Jesus, my King: Reign in my life so that I may be  
humble and gentle like you. Amen." (Matthew 21:5)

**For Throughout the Day:**

"Lord God, give me the same attitude as your Son, that of a  
humble servant. Amen." (Philippians 2:5-8)

**Mealtime Refrain:**

"Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord:  
Hosanna in the highest!" (Matthew 21:9)

**A Blessing to Share:**

"May the Lord give you ears to listen to him, the mind to  
learn from him, and the grace to live as his humble servant.  
Amen." (Isaiah 50:4-6)

**Mealtime Prayer:**

"Father in Heaven, bless us and the food we eat. As you  
serve us here, we remember your Son the suffering servant.  
Please make us strong to serve in his name. Amen."



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**Mealtime Refrain:**

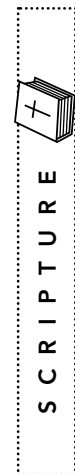
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**Faith Talk:**

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Have you ever attended a parade? What do you remember?
- Jesus was greeted by a large crowd when he entered Jerusalem (Matthew 21:8). If he had come to your town or city, how would you have welcomed him?
- Why do you think Jesus chose to ride on a donkey? What does this say to you about him?

**Devotional Practices:**

Find a bare branch and place it in a pot. Each day of Holy Week, attach a different symbol to the branch and read the associated Scripture passage.

Palm Sunday: Read Matthew 21:1-9. Place twigs and/or strips of cloth at the foot of the branch to symbolize the cloaks and branches spread on the road as Jesus entered Jerusalem.

Holy Monday: Read Matthew 21:42-46. Place a stone at the foot of the branch to symbolize Jesus, the stone that was rejected.

Holy Tuesday: Read Matthew 26:6-13. Hang a small bottle of perfume from the branch.

Holy Wednesday: Read Matthew 26:14-16. Hang a bag of coins from the branch.

Maundy Thursday: Read Matthew 26:17-28. Place a small plate and cup at the foot of the cross as a reminder of the Last Supper.

Good Friday: Read Matthew 27:1,33-50. Hammer small nails into the branch and attach a sign reading "This is Jesus, King of the Jews".

Easter Saturday: Read Matthew 27:57-60. Place a black cloth over the branch.

Easter Sunday: Read Matthew 28:1-10. Remove the black cloth and decorate the branch with flowers, paper butterflies or paper streamers.

**Rituals and Traditions:**

From Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, the church remembers the journey of Jesus from his entry into Jerusalem to his last meal, trial, crucifixion, death, and resurrection. These are the pivotal events for our faith. Much more than Christmas, this week deserves our attention at home with our children. Look to the structure of Holy Week to guide your family activities. It's especially helpful to plan for Friday and Saturday to be quiet, at-home days, with a few activities planned. Plan simple meals and cut back on treats and use of media. Agree on times when you can gather as a family to reflect on the events of Jesus' passion.

**Service:**

Make a family act of service a "must" in your observance of Holy Week e.g. contact an elderly neighbor to offer your help with household cleaning or gardening; or prepare food to donate to a food pantry supporting the needy.

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