

Wednesday

Read: *Matthew 21:7 Jesus Enters Jerusalem*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What is the significance of the donkey?*
2. *What might Jesus have meant by this manner of entrance?*

Prayer Focus: Guiding Power, this Lenten season, help us to remember all the many lives that have been touched by the entrance of Jesus into human history. Jesus came not to destroy but to love; not to condemn but offer hope. Let us pray for God's spirit to shine through us.

Thursday

Read: *Matthew 21:8 The Crowd Responds*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *How are we preparing our hearts this Lenten season?*
2. *Where do you see yourself in this story? - cheering?, fearful?, hopeful?*

Prayer Focus: Gracious and Loving God, forgive our fears, our indecisions, our apathy. Let us walk alongside Jesus during Lent knowing there will be difficult times ahead but glory at the end.

Friday

Read: *Matthew 21:9 Joyful and Victorious Procession*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *How is the Holy Spirit calling you today?*
2. *How can we move from faith to action?*

Prayer Focus: Oh, Merciful One! We don't shout "Hosanna!" often enough. Give us the strength to share our faith with others and sing your praises from the rooftops!

The Parade: Risking Reputation

Pastor's message: Matthew 21:7-9 (with ref. to Zechariah 9:9-10) All victories come at a cost. Jesus is not going to fit in our frame or agenda. Are you ready to risk everything to follow Jesus?
Message Notes:



Small Group Format

Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *What will you give up or take on this Lenten Season?*

Opening Prayer

Song (optional)

Reflection on Scripture

Have someone read:

- Discuss observations about the text
 - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
 - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

Pray for each other

Refreshments (optional)

THE PARADE: RISKING REPUTATION **February 26, 2023**

Monday

Read: *Zechariah 9:9 The Coming Ruler of God's People*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What is the importance of prophecy in the Bible?*
2. *Why might Zechariah describe Jesus in this manner?*

Prayer Focus: Compassionate One, You have shown us an alternate way of living. Help us to recognize our own shortcomings and limitations and learn to walk humbly with You.

Tuesday

Read: *Zechariah 9:10 Jesus as the Commander of Peace*

Questions for Reflection and Application:

1. *How does this prophecy show that Jesus would be a different type of ruler?*
2. *How did Jesus' life fulfill this prophecy?*

Prayer Focus: Creator God, we live in tumultuous times. War, poverty, suffering and natural disasters surround our world daily. But you offer us a Kingdom of Peace. Help us embrace your love, grace and mercy to create a better world for everyone.