

Lent Week 6: March 26-April 1

You can find more details about this reading guide and how to use it by clicking on “Week 1 - Reading Guide” and reading page 1.

Th	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Deuteronomy 16:1-8 Philippians 2:1-11
F	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Jeremiah 33:1-9 Philippians 2:12-18
Sa	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Jeremiah 33:10-16 Mark 10:32-34, 46-52
Su	<i>Palm Sunday</i> Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 John 12:12-16
M	<i>Monday of Holy Week</i> Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 36:5-11 Hebrews 9:11-15 John 12:1-11
Tu	<i>Tuesday of Holy Week</i> Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 71:1-14 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 John 12:20-36
W	<i>Wednesday of Holy Week</i> Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 70 Hebrews 12:1-3 John 13:21-32

During this week of readings we enter “Holy Week”. The final hours of Jesus’ life are coming into view. Maybe that makes the portrait of Christ in Philippians 2 all the more stunning. The One who was in very nature God *chose* to take on the very nature of a servant for our sake. Consider this reality for a moment.

In what way does Jesus’ example inspire or challenge you? Be specific. How might your work — or a relationship — or a behavior more reflect the humility and selflessness of Jesus?

The shouts of praise ringing out in John 12 are not an original song. In fact, the chorus of hope we find there is centuries old (rooted in Psalm 118:26) — passed down for generations.

Take a few moments to consider all those who have gone before us: the host of saints who have walked through Holy Week, cried out with the same longings and stood in awe at the sacrifice of love.

Who has gone before you (or is further down the road) and has been an encouragement and example to you in your faith? Give thanks to God for them and let that person know what a gift they have been to you.

Read Mark 10:32-34 again. Jerusalem looms ahead and make no mistake — the disciples are overwhelmed with fear (and who can blame them!). Is there anyway that fear has a hold of you?

- Are you fearful about some unknown in the future?
- Are you scared you might not have enough?
- Is there a relationship you fear may never be restored?

Today confess and lay down any areas of your life in which fear is ruling you. Ask God to help you see that fear has no authority in our lives. There is a better way. Ask God for the courage and strength you need to live with confidence and hope.