

## EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

# DONKEY

### EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

#### *Introducing the Gospel*

*Jesus' entry into Jerusalem (Luke 19: 28-40)*

The events of Holy Week begin with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Each of the three synoptic Gospels tells the story in a slightly different way, but the key idea remains the same. Drawing on imagery from the Old Testament, the Gospel writers make it plain that Jesus is entering Jerusalem, riding on a colt, as Messiah. Some local churches capture the Palm Sunday theme by arranging a procession through the streets. Some of these processions include a donkey.

The image to stimulate reflection on Luke's account of Palm Sunday is *donkey*.

#### *Core extract from the Gospel (Luke 19: 35-38; for reflection throughout the week)*

Then they brought the colt to Jesus;  
and after throwing their cloaks on the colt,  
they set Jesus on it.  
As he rode along,  
people kept spreading their cloaks on the road.  
As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives,  
the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God  
joyfully with a loud voice  
for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,  
'Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!'

#### *Gospel prayer (for use throughout the week)*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
when you rode into Jerusalem on a donkey,  
you were greeted with shouts of praise.  
Inspire us, your people, to shout aloud,  
Yours is the glory,  
Yours is the kingdom,  
Yours is the praise:  
for you are our God,  
now and always.  
Amen.

**READING NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL**

**Luke 19: 28-40**

**Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem**

After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" just say this: "The Lord needs it."' So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, 'Why are you untying the colt?' They said, 'The Lord needs it.' Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

'Blessed is the king  
who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Peace in heaven,  
and glory in the highest heaven!'

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, order your disciples to stop.' He answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.'

## PALM SUNDAY (YEAR C) Sunday 13 April 2025

### **ENGAGING WITH THE THEME**

#### *Dwelling with the text (Luke 19: 28-40)*

Begin to explore Luke's account of Palm Sunday by employing the SIFT approach of Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking. You may find that one of these approaches comes easier to you than the others. But it is worth trying all four.

- What details in the passage catch your attention (Sensing)?
- What big ideas in the passage spark in your mind (Intuition)?
- What most touches your heart in the passage (Feeling)?
- What most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage (Thinking)?

#### *Thinking and talking*

Identify topics within the passage that can get you thinking and talking. Here are some ideas to get you started.

- What is the significance of a colt that has never been ridden?
- What do you make of the conversation with the colt's owners?
- Why did Jesus choose to enter Jerusalem on a colt?
- What is the significance of the use of Psalm 118?
- What does this narrative say for us today?

#### *Using your Bible*

Compare Luke's account of Palm Sunday with the other Gospels.

- Mark 11: 1-10
- Matthew 21: 1-9
- John 12: 12-15

Explore Old Testament passages echoed in Luke's narrative.

- 2 Kings 9: 13
- Psalm 118: 26
- Psalm 148: 1
- Zechariah 9: 9

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### *Exploring online*

Widen your exploration of Luke's account of Palm Sunday by looking up some of the following themes and others of your own choosing.

- Palm Sunday Godly Play
- Palm Sunday YouTube
- Images of donkeys

### *Drawing on experience*

The image to stimulate reflection on Luke's account of Palm Sunday is *donkey*. Draw on your own experience of donkeys. For example:

- Where have you seen donkeys?
- Have you ever ridden a donkey?
- Have you seen a donkey in a Palm Sunday procession?

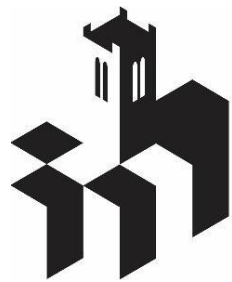
What have you learned about donkeys?

### *Creating and making*

This section offers pointers to some creative activities that may be inspired by Luke's account of Palm Sunday or by the image of donkey.

- Create a collage from images of donkeys.
- Make a poster of Jesus on Palm Sunday.
- Make craft donkeys to display.
- Create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the theme of Palm Sunday or on the image of donkey.

PALM SUNDAY (YEAR C) Sunday 13 April 2025



**Liverpool  
Cathedral**

## **EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL**

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales.



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