

Interactive lesson

HOSANNA!

There's a big word for today on the screen. What does it mean? <Let them respond>

"Hosanna," translates as "Save us" or "Save now." Why do you think the people were calling that to Jesus? <Let them respond>

Even before understanding the true nature of the Messiah, the people understood that He was good for them, that He could save them from the troubles that plagued them. They knew He was sent from God to help them in their sin-filled world.

People still call to God for help today, all over this sinful world. How does God often send that help? <Let them respond>

Now let us sing about how God may send that help through us. <Choral "They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love" TFWS #2223>

<Epistle Reading - Philippians 2:5-11>

It is indeed right to praise God! Note that Jesus did not revel in that praise, but instead came to bring God's plan to fruition on earth. When we claim to be Christian, we need to obey Christ, that all may know God as we come to share His love.

Message: The One Who Comes



picture from <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/rend-your-hearts-claiming-the-promise/palm-passion-sunday-year-b-lectionary-planning-notes/palm-passion-sunday-year-b-graphics>

Please pray with me?

Lord of all, please

- speak Your words through my mouth,
- open our ears to hear Your message, and
- abide in our hearts,

that we may recognize You when You reveal Yourself to us. Amen.



Rend Your Hearts: Claiming the Promise



- ♥ February 21 – This is the Sign
- ♥ February 28 – Walk Before Me
- ♥ March 7 – All These Words
- ♥ March 14 – Look Up and Live
- ♥ March 21 – Written on the Heart
- ♥ **March 28 – The One Who Comes**

The summary for our final week in this series reads:

“Palm Sunday is not just Palm Sunday; it is more properly Palm/Passion Sunday. That slash is important. It is a reminder that there is risk involved in taking the side of the marginalized. There is danger in trying to upset the status quo. And just when you think you’ve won your point and

gathered your crowd, you discover you are alone again.”

Gospel lesson

Let us look at just what Jesus came to do during the final days before His resurrection, with Gospel readings in several stages.



picture screencaptured from
<https://live.bible.is/bible/ENGIV/MRK/14>

Mark 14:3-9 (NRSV)

Gail Burpee / Carol Perkins

³ While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head.

⁴ But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way?

⁵ For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her.

⁶ But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble

her? She has performed a good service for me.

⁷ For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me.

⁸ She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial.

⁹ Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

Jesus came to love. At the house of a leper, an outcast, another outcast, an unnamed woman, came to Him and honored Him. But instead of celebrating that Jesus was honored, others tried to denigrate the act. Rending away the sin, Jesus celebrated the act of love. Some, like Judas, refused to celebrate love.



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Mark 14:12-17 (NRSV) Lorraine Kupiec / Carl or Janet

¹² On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

¹³ So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them,

"Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him,

¹⁴ and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'

¹⁵ He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."

¹⁶ So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

¹⁷ When it was evening, he came with the twelve.

Jesus came to prepare us to be blessed. Just like with the donkey earlier, the disciples found everything as He told them. Because they followed His instructions, the world was blessed with the sharing of the new covenant, symbolized by the bread and the cup. Following Jesus's instructions, we too are prepared for the new covenant in repenting of our sin and seeking reconciliation with God.



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Mark 14:27-31 (NRSV)

Gail Burpee / Annie Campbell

²⁶ When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the

Mount of Olives.

²⁷ And Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.'

²⁸ But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee."

²⁹ Peter said to him, "Even though all become deserters, I will not."

³⁰ Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times."

³¹ But he said vehemently, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And all of them said the same.

Jesus came to remind us that we are human, sinful, and will fail to meet our best intentions. Yet, God know this, loves us, and goes before us to where our relationship with Him will be restored, just as Jesus told the disciples He would go before them to Galilee after He was raised up.



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Mark 14:32-42 (NRSV) Lorraine Kupiec / Carol Perkins

³² They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray."

³³ He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated.

³⁴ And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake."

³⁵ And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.

³⁶ He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want."

³⁷ He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour?"

³⁸ Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

³⁹ And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words.

⁴⁰ And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him.

⁴¹ He came a third time and said to them, "Are you

still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.⁴² Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

Jesus came to show us steadfastness when all around repeatedly fail to stay focused on God. Note that where today we commonly say, "Three strikes and you're out!" Jesus says, "Get up, let us be going." Even though we fail, God still wants us to go forward with Him.

Next, Judas came with an armed crowd, to betray Jesus with a kiss.



picture screencaptured from
<https://live.bible.is/bible/ENGIV/MRK/14>

Mark 14:48-52 (NRSV) Gail Burpee / Carl or Janet

⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit?"

⁴⁹ Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled."

⁵⁰ All of them deserted him and fled.

⁵¹ A certain young man was following him, wearing

nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him,
⁵² but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

Jesus came to stand trial on our behalf even while we flee in terror and embarrassment. We do not want to own up to our sins or to face consequences for our actions; and in running, we may expose ourselves to others far more clearly than anyone wants to see.

Yet the charges must be faced, to clear the air and to enable restoration of the relationships in which we were created to live. All too often, we prefer to watch from a distance, denying any involvement as others deal with our mess.



picture screencaptured from
[https://live.bible.is/
bible/ENGIV/MRK/14](https://live.bible.is/bible/ENGIV/MRK/14)

Mark 14:54,66-72 (NRSV) Lorraine Kupiec/Annie Campbell

⁵⁴ Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire.

⁶⁶ While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by.

⁶⁷ When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth."

⁶⁸ But he denied it, saying, "I do not know or understand what you are talking about." And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed.

⁶⁹ And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them."

⁷⁰ But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean."

⁷¹ But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know this man you are talking about."

⁷² At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

Jesus came to be our confessor. When we compare ourselves to Him, we can see our sins more clearly and repent of them – especially our habitual sins.

In Mark, Jesus's accusers during His trial were muddled, giving false and conflicting testimony; but Jesus was clear: He is the Messiah, the Son of God. The accusers did not particularly impress Pilate, but Jesus amazed him, so Pilate sought to release Jesus.

Jesus came with love and called for forgiveness, the crowd came with hate and called for blood. Deniers beat and mocked Him, and led Him to Golgotha.



picture screencaptured from
<https://live.bible.is/bible/ENGIV/MRK/14>

Mark 15:25-39 (NRSV)

Melanie

²⁵ It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him.

²⁶ The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews."

²⁷ And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left.

²⁹ Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days,

³⁰ save yourself, and come down from the cross!"

³¹ In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself.

³² Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

³³ When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

³⁴ At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud

voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

³⁵ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah."

³⁶ And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down."

³⁷ Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

³⁸ And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

³⁹ Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

The word of God for the people of God

Jesus came to lift us up. While He was on the cross, the people yelled for Him to come DOWN as a way of saving Himself, that He could live in the world; instead, He gave Himself UP as a way of saving all of us from sin, that we could live with God.

Jesus came to teach us the truth and to reconcile us with God. Like the crowd shouting "Hosanna!" we like to praise God and beg for His favor when He is in our faces, but there is so much more to living faithfully than that. Among the many other things which He came to do, Jesus gave Himself to make that known to us, and we focus heavily on remembering that this week.

<Hymn "Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes" TFWS #2138>

<Doxology UMH #95>

<Prayer of Dedication and Pastoral Prayer>

Let us pray:

Almighty and everlasting God, as we bring our gifts and lay them at your altar, we remember the crowds in Jerusalem who laid their cloaks on the road, shouting "Hosanna" as Jesus passed. While our hearts thrill to the spectacle, help us also to remember the coming sadness on the face of the Savior.

Forgive us for expecting that only royal treatment will follow when You come to us as King. Forgive us when we do not and cannot believe that in a few days we will be among those who turn our backs and run from his presence.

Call us to turn our lives around--to see the needs of others, to reach out in trust and faith, to be willing to witness to your good news of saving love. Heal our hearts and give us courage for the days ahead; guide us with Your wisdom.

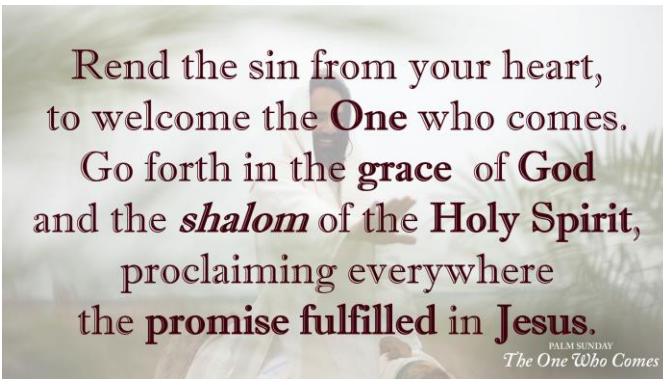
- Heal and comfort all who are ailing.
 - Coronavirus victims - isolated; school; out-of-work; health care workers (especially: Marie Curri, Laura Davis, Nicole Marshall, Vince Marshall, Heidi Newton, Jennifer Tibbens-Scalzo) & those serving critical needs
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- Thanks for
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- Hold those who cannot be with us in Your loving embrace until we see them again.
 - Travelers
 - Family far off
- Social unrest - dismantle racism and reform problem systems
- Guide our Leaders - local, state, federal, international, and especially of Your church.
- Help us to be fearless in talking about You as a normal part of daily living.
 - Inspire each one of us this week to invite one person to come know You better.
 - Help us to encourage one another toward faith in You and toward living together in true Christian community.

All these things we pray as You taught us to pray,
<Lord's Prayer>

<Hymn "Make Me a Captive, Lord" UMH #421>

<Benediction>



background from <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/rend-your-hearts-claiming-the-promise/palm-passion-sunday-year-b-lectionary-planning-notes/palm-passion-sunday-year-b-graphics>

Rend the sin from your heart,
to welcome the **One** who comes.
Go forth in the **grace** of **God**
and the *shalom* of the **Holy Spirit**,
proclaiming everywhere
the **promise fulfilled in Jesus.**