

# Living the Word

MEDITATING ON THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

Year C - Palm Sunday

A resource for personal, family and community prayer.

**“Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the Lord!”**

## *Gospel: Luke 19:28-40*

*You are invited to read the Gospel passage attentively, respectfully and reverently as a gift of God.*

<sup>28</sup>Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

<sup>29</sup>Now when he was near Bethphage, close by the Mount of Olives, as it is called, he sent two of the disciples, telling them, <sup>30</sup>“Go off to the village opposite, and as you enter you will find a tethered colt that no one has yet ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup>If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you are to say, ‘The Master needs it.’”

<sup>32</sup>The messengers went off and found everything just as he had told them. <sup>33</sup>As they were untying the colt, its owner said, “Why are you untying that colt?” <sup>34</sup>and they answered, “The Master needs it.” <sup>35</sup>So they took the colt to Jesus, and, throwing the garments over its back, they helped Jesus onto it.

<sup>36</sup>As he moved off, people spread their cloaks on the road, and now, as he was approaching the downward slope of the Mount of Olives, <sup>37</sup>the whole group of disciples joyfully began to praise God at the top of their voices for all the miracles they had seen. <sup>38</sup>They cried out, “Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens!”

<sup>39</sup>Some Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Master, check your disciples,” <sup>40</sup>but he an-

swered, “I tell you, if these keep silence the stones will cry out.”

### Background to Gospel passage

**Where does it happen?** It takes place in Bethphage, a small village at the top of the Mount of Olives.

**When does it happen?** It takes place as Jesus is about to enter into Jerusalem at the beginning of the last week of his life.

**Who is there?** Jesus and his disciples. The owner of the colt. The pilgrims who were there for Passover and the Pharisees who were looking on with suspicion.

**What happens?** As Jesus enters Jerusalem he symbolically re-enacts a prophesy from Zechariah 9:9-10 “Rejoice ...See how he comes, he is victorious, he is humble and riding on a donkey, he will banish chariots...he will proclaim peace for the nations”.

Jesus freely and consciously chooses to enter Jerusalem on a donkey – a symbol of humility, gentleness and non-violence. He is convinced these same values that he has witnessed to and preached about in Galilee, will also be victorious in Jerusalem – the centre of Jewish political, social and religious life. The message is clear: Jesus is the humble peacemaker coming to save his people.

**Suggested Guidelines** to help you recognise this passage in your life experience.

**“Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem”**

Can you enter into the experience of Jesus by remembering when the time had come for you to enter into your own ‘Jerusalem’ – the prospect of something painful, even terrifying that you knew you had to face at some stage?

**“So they took the colt to Jesus”**

Remember a time in your life when you had to face an aggressive or hostile situation and you were determined to enter into it in a humble, gentle and respectful manner – trusting in the power of truth and love.

**“throwing the garments over its back, they helped Jesus onto it.”**

Remember the people who were there for you and supported you during a difficult journey that you had to make in your life.

**“Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the Lord”.**

Can you enter into the experience of “the people” by remembering a time when a new leader who demonstrated great integrity and enthusiasm emerged in your country, church or community? It filled you with great joy and hope for the future.

**What does this Gospel remind me of?** *Where was it? When was it? Who was there? What happened?*

***Now I can see that God’s loving presence and action were in that life experience.***

**Prayer Response** - you are invited to respond in prayer in your own words.

*Heavenly Father, I thank you for the times when I have experienced this Gospel in my life...*

*Heavenly Father, I am sorry for the times I have fallen short of living this Gospel...*

*Heavenly Father, please help me to live this Gospel...*



You are invited to deepen this prayer experience by resting your heart silently in God's presence and love. The quiet repetition of a word or phrase from the passage may help you on this journey to stillness and silence.

### **An Invitation to Reflect**

What new insight has the Gospel opened my eyes to see?

### **Action**

This week I will try to live the Gospel by...

### **Thought for the week**

The only way to transform the darkness of evil in this world is to meet it with the light of goodness, truth and love.

*Rest in this truth, hold it in prayer and trust that it will bear fruit in your life.*



Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, and the people were so happy to see Him! They waved palm branches, laid down their coats on the road and cheered, welcoming him into the city.

Can you think of a person—a parent, grandparent, or teacher- who helps you welcome Jesus into your heart with joy, like the crowd welcomed Him into Jerusalem?

Draw or write about a time when someone has helped you welcome Jesus into your life.



Father, thank You for this story that shows how people celebrated Jesus with joy. Help me to welcome Him into my life every day with a happy heart.

**Action:** this week I will try to show love by...

For more information check out our website: [lectio.newrydominican.com](http://lectio.newrydominican.com)

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