

A powerful sign

Luke 19.28-40

Jesus enters Jerusalem riding on a donkey. The crowd cheers but some of the Pharisees raise objections. Jesus claims that if the crowd were silenced the stones would cheer instead.

Now read **Luke 19.28-40** see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

While Jesus enters Jerusalem to great honour and acclaim, he is not greeted with universal approval. As the week unfolds, the disapproval will grow when the crowd begins to realise that he is not the type of Messiah that they had anticipated.



What can you see in this painting? If you were part of the scene, where would you be?

WALK

Go for a walk and when you see a large pebble, stone or rock, pause, look around and praise God for something that you can see, remembering the words of Jesus: 'I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.'



Holy Week Picture Prayer

Each day, add an image – either drawn or downloaded and printed – onto a large sheet of paper, as your prayer for the day:

- Sunday – donkey
- Monday – bread
- Tuesday – chalice of wine
- Wednesday – hill
- Thursday – crown of thorns
- Friday – cross
- Saturday – tomb
- Sunday – joy

Use your picture to reflect on the Holy Week story.

Hands-on Lent



It is Palm Sunday. The streets are covered with the leaves that people have thrown down in front of Jesus as he entered Jerusalem. Tea is made from leaves. Put some tea bags into the Hands-on Lent bowl to remind you of this event. And of the 'dry' and desperate experience of Holy Week and Good Friday. You will also have what you need to make a celebration brew next Sunday, Easter Day. Hope you have fun sharing out the bowl next week!

6



LISTEN



Play a sound effect of people cheering, e.g. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yLNALmt6KF8>

Imagine what it must have been like to be present as Jesus entered Jerusalem and consider how you praise God.



Create a paper plate donkey.

Colour your paper plate grey. Cut out paper ears, eyes and teeth. Make a wide oval mouth from paper – draw two black dots for nostrils and add a smile. Stick these to the plate. For the mane, cut a few pieces of grey wool to stick between the ears. Draw black eyebrows. Think about why Jesus chose to ride into Jerusalem on a donkey as you do this.



Give

Cloaks were expensive items of clothing in the time of Jesus. Yet the people laid them down on the road in his honour. Have a look at your clothes to see what you are willing and able to give up, donate what you can to a charity shop.

Choose a version of the passage to read. The first is the ROOTS version for children, the second is the NRSV text which may be suitable for older children, young people and adults.

Jesus headed straight on towards Jerusalem. As he came near the Mount of Olives, he called two of his disciples aside. Jesus said to them, 'Do you see the village ahead? Go into it and, as you do, you will see a young donkey tied up. No one has ever ridden this animal before. I want you to untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks why you are untying it, say this, "The Lord needs it."' The disciples were puzzled, but they did as Jesus asked.

The disciples set off for the village and, just as Jesus had told them, they found the donkey. But as they began to untie it, they heard a voice: 'Why are you untying my donkey?' Looking up, they saw the animal's owner, so they replied just as Jesus had told them: 'The Lord needs it.' Amazingly, the owner let them take the donkey to Jesus. The disciples took off their cloaks, threw them onto the donkey's back and helped Jesus on. As he rode towards Jerusalem, lots of people kept taking off their cloaks and spreading them onto the road. As they reached the top of the Mount of Olives and began their



journey down, the crowd shouted praise to God for all the amazing things that he had done.

'Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!' 'Peace in heaven and glory to God!' Some of the Pharisees were angry. They didn't agree with what the crowd were shouting. 'Tell them to stop!' they demanded of Jesus. But he refused, saying, 'Even if these people were silent, the stones would shout out praise instead!'

Luke 19.28-40

Did you know?

- Jesus rode a donkey to fulfil a prophecy from the Old Testament and showing he was coming to bring peace.
- Some of the crowd were excited for the wrong reason, they thought Jesus was coming to fight the Romans.

Luke 19.28-40 (NRSV)

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."