

Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025

Scripture Reading: Luke 19:28-40

*In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies,
but the silence of our friends. —Martin Luther King Jr.*

If, perchance, a contemporary rock star — let’s say Taylor Swift — were to arrive in midtown New York City for an outdoor concert in Times Square or Washington Square, she’d very possibly arrive in a stretch limo, followed by several other vehicles, as well as her personal entourage and staff. Of course, the stage and equipment has already been set up, sound checks are done, everything is ready. She just needs to show up. And when she does, the crowds are there and are going wild — smartphones in the air. People are clamoring for her attention. Everyone wants a piece of her. The crush is incredible.

In Jesus’ day, Jerusalem was a big city, but if someone important entered the city, it was likely a military man, or governmental figure of the Roman Empire. He’d likely enter on a large war horse, befitting the powerful man that he was.

But the people didn’t care.

But on the day we call Palm Sunday, they care. Enormous crowds were on hand to greet Jesus as befitting the (“Rock of Ages”) rock (“Morning”) star he was. He entered Jerusalem riding on a colt, fulfilling the prophecy from Zechariah 9:9 that the King would come in humility. The mob shouted and hollered: Hosanna! Hosanna! They gave him the red cloak treatment, casting off their outer garments to create a carpet of cloth as the tiny beast clopped by. The crowds sang like a song might swell in a football stadium, waving palm branches like rally towels, “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Luke 19:38).

Yet, as we know, only days later, thanks to some machinations of his political enemies and a lot of fake news, Jesus would be jeered and ridiculed by a crowd demanding his crucifixion. This stark contrast challenges us to examine the sincerity of our own faith. Following Jesus means more than moments of celebration; it requires a life of commitment, even when the path becomes difficult.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord Jesus, as we remember your entry into Jerusalem, we welcome you into our hearts as our Lord and Savior. Help us to follow your example of humility and servanthood. And may our commitment to you remain steadfast, not just in moments of celebration but in every season of life. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Luke 4-6

Monday: Joshua 4-6

Tuesday: Joshua 7-9

Wednesday: Joshua 10-12

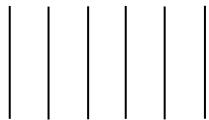
Thursday: Joshua 13-15

Friday: Joshua 16-18

Saturday: Psalms 34-36

BRAIN DRAIN

You are given the following:



Add five line segments to make 9. See answer below.

PALM



SUNDAY

ANSWERS to Test

Your Bible IQ! 1E, 2C, 3C, 4C, 5D, 6C, 7E, 8A, 9A, 10D

ANSWER to BRAIN

DRAIN: NINE (Add a slanting segment twice, and three horizontal segments to get NINE.)

TEST YOUR BIBLE IQ!

Knowledge is acquired in many ways. One approach is to review what has already been mastered. See if you remember the correct responses to the questions below. These questions review and connect with many well-known stories in the Bible. Answers below.

- All of these are part of the story of Noah except: A. a dove, B. a rainbow, C. an olive branch, D. a raven, E. an apple. (Genesis 6-9)
- Hagar was the handmaid to this matriarch: A. Bathsheba, B. Ruth, C. Sarai, D. Rebekah, E. Rachel. (Genesis 16)
- King David succeeded: A. Solomon, B. Samson, C. Saul, D. Isaiah, E. Jeremiah. (1 Samuel 18)
- Which person is mismatched? A. Gideon/trumpet, B. Moses /burning bush, C. Joseph/slingshot, D. Daniel/lions. (1 Samuel 17)
- Which biblical figure's faith was tested by many trials? A. Adam, B. Moses, C. Noah, D. Job, E. Solomon.
- Jacob saw angels going up and down a: A. highway, B. bridge, C. ladder or stairway, D. mountain, E. tree. (Genesis 28)
- Elisha healed the waters of Jericho by putting this into the spring: A. blood, B. an olive, C. wine, D. sand, E. salt. (2 Kings 2:19-22)
- In the Old Testament, Zion refers to: A. a city, B. heaven, C. a prophet, D. a name for God. (Psalm 48:1-2)
- The Bible says that all but which river flowed through the Garden of Eden? A. Jordan, B. Tigris, C. Gihon, D. Pishon, E. Euphrates. (Genesis 2:10-14)
- Nebuchadnezzar was responsible for the destruction of: A. the hanging gardens, B. the wall of Jericho, C. the city of Sodom, D. the temple at Jerusalem. (2 Kings 25:8-12)