

TAKE 10"- Worship While Away! (Palm/Passion Sunday, March 25, 2018)

Share:

Awake to the day of triumph for our Savior!
Give thanks for this day that leads to the cross!
Come with your branches, hosannas, and songs!
Fill the air with welcome to the Lord!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Read these words from a hymn today: *Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!*

Ride on, ride on in majesty! Hear all the tribes hosanna cry;
O Savior meek, pursue Your road, with palms and scattered garments strowed.

Ride on, ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die.
O Christ, Your triumphs now begin, o'er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on, ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die,
bow Your meek head to mortal pain, then take, O Christ, Your pow'r and reign.

Read this scripture from worship: Mark 11:1-11, 15:21-39 (The Message)

¹⁻³ When they were nearing Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany on Mount Olives, he sent off two of the disciples with instructions: "Go to the village across from you. As soon as you enter, you'll find a colt tethered, one that has never yet been ridden. Untie it and bring it. If anyone asks, 'What are you doing?' say, 'The Master needs him, and will return him right away.'"

⁴⁻⁷ They went and found a colt tied to a door at the street corner and untied it. Some of those standing there said, "What are you doing untying that colt?" The disciples replied exactly as Jesus had instructed them, and the people let them alone. They brought the colt to Jesus, spread their coats on it, and he mounted.

⁸⁻¹⁰ The people gave him a wonderful welcome, some throwing their coats on the street, others spreading out rushes they had cut in the fields. Running ahead and following after, they were calling out,
Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in God's name!

Blessed the coming kingdom of our father David!

Hosanna in highest heaven!

¹¹ He entered Jerusalem, then entered the Temple. He looked around, taking it all in. But by now it was late, so he went back to Bethany with the Twelve.

²¹ There was a man walking by, coming from work, Simon from Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. They made him carry Jesus' cross. ²²⁻²⁴ The soldiers brought Jesus to Golgotha, meaning "Skull Hill." They offered him a mild painkiller (wine mixed with myrrh), but he wouldn't take it. And they nailed him to the cross. They divided up

his clothes and threw dice to see who would get them. ²⁵⁻³⁰ They nailed him up at nine o'clock in the morning. The charge against him—THE KING OF THE JEWS—was printed on a poster. Along with him, they crucified two criminals, one to his right, the other to his left. People passing along the road jeered, shaking their heads in mock lament: "You bragged that you could tear down the Temple and then rebuild it in three days—so show us your stuff! Save yourself! If you're really God's Son, come down from that cross!"

³¹⁻³² The high priests, along with the religion scholars, were right there mixing it up with the rest of them, having a great time poking fun at him: "He saved others—but he can't save himself! Messiah, is he? King of Israel? Then let him climb down from that cross. We'll *all* become believers then!" Even the men crucified alongside him joined in the mockery. ³³⁻³⁴ At noon the sky became extremely dark. The darkness lasted three hours. At three o'clock, Jesus groaned out of the depths, crying loudly, "*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*" which means, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

³⁵⁻³⁶ Some of the bystanders who heard him said, "Listen, he's calling for Elijah." Someone ran off, soaked a sponge in sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down."

³⁷⁻³⁹ But Jesus, with a loud cry, gave his last breath. At that moment the Temple curtain ripped right down the middle. When the Roman captain standing guard in front of him saw that he had quit breathing, he said, "This has to be the Son of God!"

Talk together, responding to these questions:

Standing along the road of the Jerusalem parade, what did the crowds expect from Jesus? What do we expect from Jesus?

What was Jesus' mission?

How do the events of this week contribute to one unfolding story?

How will this story reshape your week, your life, our world? Where will you commit to letting love win?

Pray together:

Jesus, in your passion and resurrection, you show me there is no place you have not been and no place you fear to go. Morning by morning, you awaken me more deeply to this truth. Send me into the world this day with the courage and wisdom to be a faithful witness to your coming reign of justice, mercy, and peace, testifying and demonstrating that "love wins!" Amen.

Bless one another:

Take each person's hand and say. "God's grace is for you, God's love is upon you, God's call is within you. Be kind to yourself and others this week as a child of God."