**Faith Foundations 2025-2026**

**The Gospel of John (Part 2)**

**Session 4—John 12:12-19**

**We have finally arrived at the most pivotal events recorded in John’s Gospel: Jesus’ activities during Holy Week. Holy Week is certainly the most significant time of the church year, and this is because it was the most significant time in the history of the world. During this week, Jesus was crucified for our sins and raised again from the dead to give us the hope of eternal life. And as do our celebrations of Holy Week every year, our study of John’s account of the original Holy Week begins with Jesus’ procession into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey, which today we call Palm Sunday.**

**1.) Read John 12:12-15. What did the large crowd assembled for the Passover in Jerusalem hear about? What did they do when they heard this news?**

**2.) What is the significance of the crowd’s use of palm branches?**

**3.) What does the word “Hosanna” mean?**

**4.) What did the crowds call Jesus when He arrived? What is the significance of these titles?**

**5.) Where in our Lutheran liturgy do we repeat these words of the crowd on Palm Sunday? Why do we use these words at that time, and what is their significance?**

**6.) On what did Jesus ride into Jerusalem? What message was He sending about Himself by riding this type of animal?**

**7.) Read Zechariah 9 (especially verse 9). What is this passage about in its original context, and how does this context help to deepen our understanding of what Jesus was proclaiming about Himself?**

**8.) Read John 12:16-19. Did Jesus’ disciples understand what He was doing? When did they finally understand?**

**9.) What does “when Jesus was glorified” mean?**

**10.) Which crowd arrived with Jesus, and what were they doing during this time? Why did the crowd from Jerusalem go out to meet Jesus?**

**12.) How did the Pharisees react to these events?**

**Jesus was not being subtle when He arrived in Jerusalem: He was the coming king, and everyone knew that He was making that claim by His actions. Yet, He was a humble king, one who did not demand that others serve Him, but had rather come to serve others. Just how much He would serve others would become very apparent to everyone over the next week. Soon, the cheers would turn to jeers and tears, but only for a short time!**