

PALM SUNDAY
They WANTED A KING
John 12:12-19
March 29, 2026
Pastor Mike Popovich

It is the Sunday before the Passover celebration.
Jews have flooded the city and come from all over the world.

"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." Mark 1:14-15 ESV

The chief priests decided that in order to keep control of the region, Jesus must die, and Lazarus too.

Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. [10] So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, [11] for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and putting their faith in him.

John 12:9-11 NIV

THE PEOPLE WANTED A KING

They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel!" Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written, "Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt." John 12:13-15 NIV

This death was about our broken relationship with God. It was about the search for the Messiah who would bring reconciliation and salvation.

Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? [10] But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. . . ." He said to the paralytic, [11] "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." [12] He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Mark 2: 9-12 NIV

Jesus wanted to free them of their sin.
The Pharisees were losing control of the situation.

Then the Pharisees said to each other, "We've lost. Look--the whole world has gone after him!" John 12:19 LIV

HOLY WEEK OR JUST A HOLIDAY?

The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast...
John 12:12a NIV

Holy Week means it would have been set aside for an important reason so we would not forget and just turn it into a party.

JESUS CAME TO BE THE SAVIOR

*Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion!
Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*
Zechariah 9:9 NIV

Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, "You know nothing at all! [50] You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish." [51] He did not say this on his own, but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation, [52] and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one. [53] So from that day on they plotted to take his life.
John 11:49-53 NIV

So Holy Week is about death. It is about life.
It is about the question "Would you die for a friend?"

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8 ESV

**Tell them about your faith.
Tell them about Jesus.**