

GLENKIRK CHURCH



WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

# DEVO

MARCH 30 - APRIL 3, 2026

The background is a vibrant green with a subtle pattern of palm fronds. The text 'Palm Sunday' is centered in a bold, rounded font. 'Palm' is in a dark green color, and 'Sunday' is in a lighter, lime green color.

**Palm**  
**Sunday**

# Monday

Read **John 13:1-17**

On December 9, 1917, British General Sir Edmund Allenby rode his horse to the Jaffa Gate to enter Jerusalem to accept the surrender of the city from the Ottoman mayor of the city. The general and his entourage dismounted and walked through the gate. They purposely avoided any grandiosity or Christ-like pretensions as they entered the city. Allenby entered on foot in a show of respect for the city and to avoid comparison with Kaiser Wilhelm II's entry in 1898 as a conquering emperor with his entourage riding on prancing white horses. Jesus chose to enter mounted on a humble donkey. General Allenby did not see himself worthy of either; he chose to dismount and enter on foot. (Simon Montefiore)

On Palm Sunday, Jesus, in fulfillment of prophecy (Zechariah 9:9), chose to enter Jerusalem riding on a donkey. Jesus came to be a servant. *“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many”* (Mark 10:45)—His example of servanthood:

*“You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.”* (John 13:14-15)

Jesus' washing of His disciples' feet is more than a gentle reminder about humility. It is a compressed revelation of the meaning of life,

a pattern for joy and a window into God's own character. In John 13:15, Jesus did not merely prescribe etiquette—He has unveiled the inner logic of the Kingdom of God. Jesus' act is a preview of the world as God intends it to be—and an invitation for us to live that way now.

If Jesus—God in human flesh—washed His disciples' feet as an example for us, we must not hesitate to serve others. We need to be sensitive to the Spirit's voice as He prompts us. We need to hear and obey quickly. Whose “feet” might you “wash” today?

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How might you be a servant in the name of Christ to those around you? At home? At church? At work? With your friends?

## PRAYERS

Our Lord and Savior, we thank You for Your glorious Example. We cannot fathom how low You stooped to join us in our plight, but we are eternally grateful that You did. Give us servants' hearts, hearts that ache for the lost and marginalized. Guard us from the dangers of selfish pride. Empower us with Your Holy Spirit so that we may live lives of deep humility. Amen.

# Tuesday

Read **Matthew 21:14-17**

I want to tell you about a special experience I had while baby-sitting my two-year-old granddaughter. I was sitting in a chair in my granddaughter's bedroom to keep her company while she was falling asleep.

She was lying quietly for a few minutes. Then without any promptings, she began to sing the following song:

“Bless the Lord, O my soul. O my soul, worship His holy name.  
The sun has set. There's a new day dawning.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul. O my soul, worship His holy name.  
Sing like never before. O my soul, worship His holy name.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul. O my soul, worship His holy name.”

She repeated this song over and over again for about fifteen minutes and then fell asleep. I felt like I was in heaven hearing the angels sing. It was such a special moment for me to be there. I wish I could have recorded it.

The sweet tender voice of a two-year-old child singing echoed in my head throughout that night and the following day. It was a very worshipful song that drew me into the Lord's presence. I was very much encouraged as the song lifted up my spirit as it resounded in my mind through much of the day.

On Palm Sunday the children were shouting, “*Hosanna to the Son of David*” (Matthew 21:16). The Jewish religious leaders, very much disturbed by these words, protested to Jesus. Jesus answered them, quoting Psalm 8:2 in His response: “*Have you never read, ‘From the lips of children and infants, You have ordained praise?’*”

Jesus repeatedly pointed to children as models of the posture God desires: humility, openness, and a responsive heart. The instinct to praise is not lost in adulthood, but it is often buried under cynicism, self importance and distraction.

God has implanted within children the instinct to naturally and spontaneously praise Him. That evening I saw a two-year-old do this. We have been created to praise God. It is designed within our very nature. This is our purpose in life.

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Since your purpose in life is to praise God and glorify Him, how might you do this amidst the daily routines of life?

## PRAYERS

Beloved Father, we praise You for who You are, what You have done, what You are doing and what You will do. Forgive us for missing opportunities to praise and worship You amidst the busyness and distractions of daily life! Lord, help us to see the depths of Your forgiving love for us. Help us to live out our purpose in life, which is to praise You and bring glory to Your name. Amen.



Read **Luke 19:41-44**

On Palm Sunday, Jesus gazed at Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives and was moved to tears as He saw the city. His heart was torn with compassion. God's heart of pain is described in Jeremiah:

*"Since My people are crushed, I am crushed; I mourn, and horror grips Me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then is there no healing for the wound of My people? Oh, that My head were a spring of water and My eyes a fountain of tears! I would weep day and night for the stain of My people."* (Jeremiah 8:21-9:1)

Jesus wept because He knew about the future destruction of Jerusalem and warned His disciples. Normally, when an attacking army approaches a walled city, the people run into the city for protection. Instead, Jesus told them to flee from the city into the mountains. Why?

In 70 AD the Roman armies attacked Jerusalem to crush a Jewish rebellion. The siege of the city was described by an eye-witness, Josephus, a Jewish historian. The siege began during a Jewish religious festival when the city's population was swollen by pilgrims from other regions. Added to this throng were the inhabitants of the surrounding towns rushing into the city for protection. The population of the city was swollen to about 1.1 million people.

After a six-months' siege, the Roman armies attacked. Normally, when an invading army enters a city, besides crushing any resistance, they would search for plunder. When the Roman soldiers entered the buildings, the sight and smell of the dead bodies compelled them to abandon their quest for loot. The streets were littered with corpses. Lacking space for the carcasses, some were thrown over the walls. Close to a million people died. The few survivors were taken away as slaves. (Montefiore)

Since Jesus knew in advance of this coming carnage, He wept. As you begin to know more of the heart of Jesus, you will begin to see the unsaved through His eyes and weep for them as well.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What can you do to help your unsaved friends come to know Christ?

### PRAYERS

Almighty Creator, the heart of our Savior is tender and beautiful beyond measure! Help us heed the warning You share regarding righteous living throughout Scripture. Give us pure hearts, hearts like that of our Redeemer. Lord, help us to see the unsaved around us through Your eyes of compassion that we might be moved to tears for their salvation and do all we can do so that they might come to know You. Amen.

# Thursday

Read **Luke 18:9-14**

On Palm Sunday, Jesus entered Jerusalem on a humble donkey. Others have entered the city with great vanity and self-glory, such as the German emperor, Kaiser Wilhelm II, in 1898. He was not content with entering the city through a narrow city gate. Instead, he ordered that a breach be made in the wall so that he and his entourage could march into the city as a column of victorious troops. One historian described Wilhelm's ostentatious entry:

"The Kaiser sported the white uniform with the full-length, gold-threaded veil sparkling in the sunlight, flowing from a spiked helmet surmounted with a burnished golden eagle, escorted by a cavalcade of giant Prussian cavalry units in steel helmets waving Crusader-style banners, and the Sultan's lancers in red waistcoats, blue pantaloons and green turbans and armed with lances." (Montefiore)

Wilhelm's vanity and desire for self-glory resulted in his downfall. Historians described him: "Desperate for applause and success, he wanted every day to be his birthday, arrogant, with an immeasurably exaggerated self-confidence and desire to show off, disguising his deep insecurities by swagger and tough talk." (Montefiore)

Wilhelm was forced to abdicate his throne by a military takeover and went into exile. After Germany's defeat in WWI, a demand was made that Wilhelm be hanged as a war criminal. However, the country in which he had taken exile refused to extradite him.

After Jesus told the parable of the proud Pharisee and the tax collector, He concluded, "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted" (Luke 18:14). Jesus humbled Himself by riding on a donkey into Jerusalem and by His death as a criminal on the cross. His humble death resulted in His exaltation to the highest position in heaven.

Just like the Pharisee, we can easily fall into the natural human quest for self-glory. We have to guard ourselves by relying on the Lord's strength to overcome this temptation. The Holy Spirit will empower us to live lives of humbleness. As we follow Jesus in humble obedience, we will share in His glory.

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What can we do to protect ourselves from our natural human quest for self-glory?

## PRAYERS

Father God, never let us forget what Jesus taught in John 15:5: "... apart from Me you can do nothing." Forgive us when we submit to the delusion of self-sufficiency. Enable us to be humble and faithfully obedient like our Lord Himself. Lord, protect us from the natural human desires for self-glory. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit so that Your gift of humility will be manifested in our lives. Amen.



# Friday

Read **Matthew 23:37-39**

As Jesus approached Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, He wept. After He had entered the city, He again expressed His deep sorrow for the city. *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, ... how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing”* (Matthew 23:37). Jesus knew that He alone is the Way to salvation. Israel’s blindness to the Messiah in their midst grieved Him.

Jesus’ tears of sorrow are in contrast to the tears of joy shed by Israeli soldiers when they entered Jerusalem during the Six Day War, June 5-7, 1967. The event is described:

*“... the Israeli Sherman tanks fired at the Lions’ Gate, smashing the bus that was blocking it, and blew open the doors. Under raking Jordanian fire, the Israelis charged the gate. The paratroopers broke into the Via Dolorosa and charged on to the Temple Mount. ‘There you are on a half-track after two days of fighting with shots still filling the air, and suddenly you enter this wide-open space that everyone has seen before in pictures,’ wrote one officer, ‘and though I’m not religious, I don’t think there was a man who wasn’t overwhelmed with emotion. Something special had happened.’ There was a skirmish with Jordanian troops before the officer announced over the radio: ‘The Temple Mount is in our hands!’*

*“Meanwhile on Mount Zion, a company of the Jerusalem Brigade burst through a portal in the Zion Gate, hurtling down the steep hill, just as soldiers of the same unit broke through the Dung Gate. All headed for the Wall. All three companies converged simultaneously on the holy place. There the soldiers prayed, wept, applauded, danced and sang.”* (Montefiore)

Jesus’ tears of grief and the Israeli soldiers’ tears of joy were over the same city. Which reflects your own feelings? Do you grieve for the lost like Jesus? Or do you weep tears of joy like the Israeli soldiers because you now have full access into the presence of God? We need to weep tears of sorrow because so many are not able to shed tears of joy.

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Which moves you more, the tears of Jesus or the tears of the Israeli soldiers? Why?

## PRAYERS

Our Sovereign Lord, give us eyes that see and ears that hear. Help us to be sensitive and attuned to the work You are doing all around us. Share Your burden for the lost with us. Lord, help us to see that the unsaved are truly lost in their sin, and that they are experiencing the pain of living their lives without You. Move us to tears of compassion for them. Move us to love them deeply so that they may see the depths of our love for them. Amen.

# Sources



- Simon S. Montefiore, *Jerusalem: The Biography*, (Evansville, IN: Vintage Publishers, 2012).

*These devotionals are written by a team of Glenkirk volunteers who represent a range of beliefs within the evangelical spectrum. As such, some of the expressed views may not necessarily represent those of pastoral leadership. If you find yourself challenged by a devo, explore why that might be and, should you have questions or concerns, please reach out to Pastor Caitlyn Schan at [CSchan@GlenkirkChurch.org](mailto:CSchan@GlenkirkChurch.org). If you are interested in joining those who pen Glenkirk devotionals, please contact Pastor Caitlyn.*

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