

The triumphal entry!

It's the beginning of His final journey to the cross—a king entering not with force, but with peace. The crowds rejoice, the disciples praise, and even the stones are ready to cry out.



Opening question

"What's one of your favourite celebrations or joyful moments you've experienced, and what made it special?" (Give everyone a chance to share their answer)

Reflection

1. Just like last week, have **two people** take turns reading **Luke 19:28–40**, with a short pause in between.
(*Reading it twice slowly helps us listen deeply.*)
 2. Invite the group to **listen attentively** and then share **anything that stood out**—this might be:
 - an encouragement
 - a challenge
 - a surprise
 - an instruction
 - or anything else that speaks to them personally
- Keep the feedback short (1 min. max per person) and make sure **everyone has the chance to share**, even if just a sentence or two.

After sharing you might want to continue with the following reflections

In **Luke 19:28–40**, Jesus enters Jerusalem to the sound of joyful praise and public celebration. The people are laying down their cloaks, waving palm branches, and shouting, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" It's a royal welcome—but one loaded with expectation.

However, the same voices praising Him here would, only days later, cry out "Crucify Him." Why? Because Jesus didn't fulfil their expectations of what a king should be. They wanted a political liberator, but Jesus came to bring a different kind of kingdom.

Also, Jesus was not swayed by the shifting emotions of the crowd or the pressure of the moment. He wasn't reacting—He was walking with purpose, firmly committed to doing the will of His Father. Even as others misunderstood Him, rejected Him, or tried to stop Him, He moved forward with divine resolve.

This passage invites us to reflect:

- Can you think of a time when following Jesus looked different than you expected?
- How did you feel or respond in that moment?
- What helps you keep trusting God when things don't go the way you hoped?

As we close, take these truths to heart—both as an encouragement and a challenge:

Jesus is the King who comes in peace, not to meet our expectations, but to fulfil a far greater purpose. He sees the full story—our praise, our doubts, our failures—and he still rides toward the cross in love.

- Let his courage encourage you: he was not swept up by the crowd or intimidated by what lay ahead. He was determined to do his Father's will.
- Let his grace challenge you: to follow him not just in moments of celebration, but also when his path looks different than yours.

May we be those who welcome Jesus—not just with words, but with lives that trust him, even when it's hard.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for being the King who comes in peace, full of love and purpose.

Give us hearts that welcome you—not just in joyful moments, but in every season.

Give us courage to follow you when the road is uncertain, and grace to trust you when things don't go as we hoped.

Amen.