

# Palm Sunday: Morning Arrives

Discussion Guide for March 28 and 29, 2026

## Summary

This weekend's passage focuses on Palm Sunday as the church calendar enters Holy Week. Palm Sunday begins a 3-part story that starts with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, followed by messages on Good Friday and Easter weekend. The theme centers on light and darkness, illustrating how God brings hope and deliverance even in the most desperate situations.

The message explores John 12:1-19, with Jesus visiting Bethany, where Mary expresses her gratitude through costly worship after Jesus raised her brother Lazarus from the dead. This act highlights how true understanding of God's grace drives us into acts of worship that may seem extravagant but honor Christ fully. Next, Jesus enters Jerusalem, greeted by crowds shouting "Hosanna!" and laying palm branches and cloaks on the road. This triumphal entry fulfills prophecy and demonstrates God's timing in bringing light to spiritual and political darkness.

Through these events, we are reminded that God's purposes often surpass human expectations. Even when darkness seems overwhelming, we can trust that the light of Christ has already arrived and will not be overcome.

## Ice Breaker

Have you ever been in a situation that felt completely hopeless, only to see a solution or breakthrough appear unexpectedly? How did that moment change your perspective?

## Key Verses

1. John 12:1-19
2. Isaiah 9:2, 26:19
3. Revelation 22:16
4. Psalm 107:8-9
5. John 8:12

## Discussion Questions

1. Mary's act of pouring expensive perfume on Jesus' feet was an expression of costly worship. What are some ways we can show gratitude to God beyond words?
2. The triumphal entry fulfilled prophecy and brought hope to people living in spiritual and political darkness. How does understanding God's plan help us endure seasons of uncertainty in our own lives?
3. Jesus' death on the cross was part of a plan greater than the disciples could understand. How can we trust God's plans when they don't align with our expectations?

4. In the sermon, darkness represented both personal struggles and broader spiritual oppression. How does focusing on Jesus, the light of the world, change how we approach these situations?

### **Life Application**

This week, identify an area of your life where you feel darkness—be it physical, relational, financial, emotional, spiritual, or something else.

- Take intentional steps to invite God's light into that situation through prayer, Scripture, and Christian community.
- Consider a tangible act of worship or gratitude to Jesus that reflects the depth of your understanding of His grace—time, service, finances, or talents.
- Reflect on Mary's example: what costly, wholehearted action can you take to honor God this week?

### **Key Takeaways**

1. Gratitude leads to costly worship. Understanding God's grace drives meaningful action.
2. God's timing is perfect. Even when darkness seems overwhelming, His plan is unfolding.
3. Prophecy and fulfillment reveal God's faithfulness. Jesus' entry into Jerusalem was a light to the world amidst spiritual and political darkness.
4. Trust in the Light. Jesus, the bright morning star, brings hope to every personal and collective darkness.