



## Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

April 13, 2025 – Palm Sunday

“Holy Week”

### **On Palm Sunday We Begin Holy Week**

It is the practice of many Christians to regard the week before Easter – Holy Week - in a special way. Some have traditional rituals and services to mark the week. But not everyone observes Lent the same way, and we ourselves don't always observe Holy Week in the same way year to year. The observance Holy Week has a long, long history and there have been changes over time. One of the relatively recent changes I've noticed is the *merging of the events of Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter*. I've read about and heard about many reasons for this, and – believe it or not – not everyone agrees! I choose to look at each day in Holy Week separately, and this week we will look at Mark's Gospel.

This week is one of the most sacred times of the Christian year and is central for Christians, and this week's story matters greatly. This “Sunday Blast” is a guide for you to read scripture each day and reflect on the events of Holy Week. Two noted Christian theologians (John Dominic Crossan and Marcus J. Borg) have written: “everyone thinks they know [this story] too well and most do not seem to know [it] at all.”



**Why Mark's Gospel?** Two reasons: one, Mark is the earliest Gospel, the first narrative of Jesus' final week; and two, Mark went out of his way to write about Jesus' last week on a day-to-day basis. Mark takes considerable care to tell his story so that hearers or readers can follow events day by day and even hour by hour. It can be the basis for a Holy Week observance and reflective period that goes from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday without skipping anything in between.

- Palm Sunday: “When they were approaching Jerusalem” (11:1-11). The celebration of the entry into Jerusalem for Passover.
- Monday: “On the following day...” (11:12-19). The cursing of the fig tree. The prophetic demonstration against the Temple. Why was Jesus so angry?
- Tuesday: “In the morning...” (11:20-13:37). Many important parables.
- Wednesday: “It was two days before the Passover.” (14:1-11). A woman anoints Jesus.
- Thursday: “On the first day of Unleavened Bread” (14:12-72). The Last Supper. Jesus is arrested.
- Friday: “As soon as it was morning...” (15:1-41). The trial. The Crucifixion.
- Saturday: “The Sabbath” (15:42-47). The day before the Sabbath – Jesus' burial. (Actually, Mark does not say anything about what happened on the Sabbath.)
- Sunday: “Very early on the first day of the week...” (16:1-9)

As you read and ponder these verses during Holy Week, may you find a greater sense of God's purpose for the events of Holy Week! – God's Peace, Vance

**Prayer box:** Let us pray for healing for Bruce, Patti, John H., Holland, Steve, Debbie, John C., Lynn, Vance and Maggie. Let us give thanks for healing, especially Joyce. Let us pray for the souls of our departed friends and family members, and those who mourn. Pray for those suffering from natural disasters. Let us pray for all churches seeking pastors. Let us also pray for a deeper understanding of Scripture. Lord, hear our prayers!