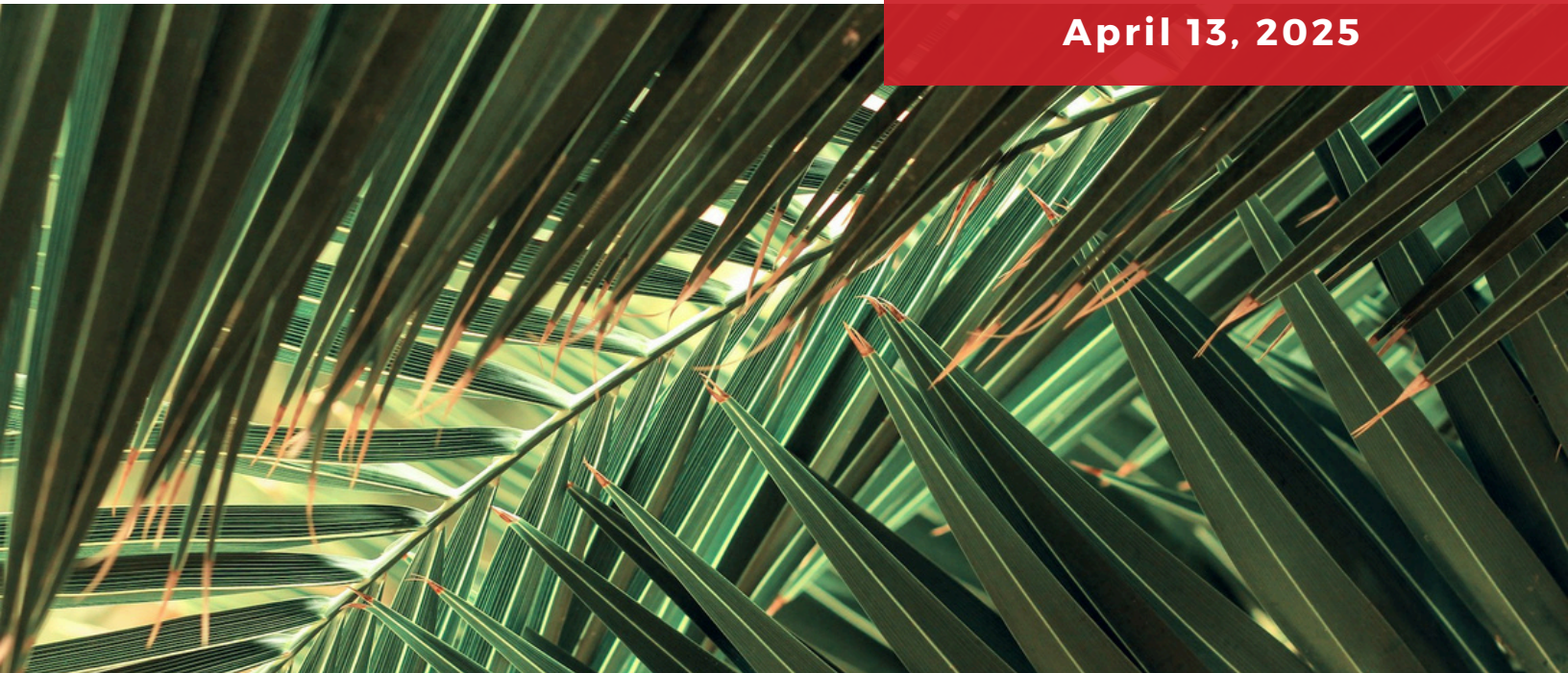


# THE HOPE JOURNAL

LEARNING TO LOVE, TOGETHER

April 13, 2025



## A COLT

*the twin visions of Jesus*

by Drew Downs

In scripture and tradition, there is some ambiguity to what exactly Jesus is riding into Jerusalem. Tradition has long taught that it was a donkey, an excellent articulation of humility and a perfect contrast with Roman warhorses. But the word used in Mark and Luke's gospels is a colt, which is the same word used for a young donkey or a young horse. Matthew's gospel actually refers to both being present. But what happens if we consider Jesus riding a young horse?

A colt is a young, untamed horse, meaning it hasn't been trained to be ridden. There is a demonstration of power *and* humility in this example then, which deeply contrasts with the naked aggression of Roman empire. For once again Jesus can do what the mighty cannot — to live in harmony with creation. He can still the wild storm and also calm the wild horse. They will see Jesus as dangerous, too, as a threat, not to peace and justice, but to their cruel empire.

# LENT

2025

## WHAT'S GOING ON

*"You know we've got to find a way  
To bring some loving here today".*

-Marvin Gaye

Disciples, Apostles, and Saints!

**Holy Week is upon us!**

Here are three ways to mark your Holy Week experience:

### **Read the Gospel Narrative**

Read and reflect on the last days of Jesus, the Passion, and resurrection.

- Sunday – Luke 19:28-40
- Monday – Luke 19:41-48
- Tuesday – Luke 20-21
- Wednesday – Luke 22:1-6
- Thursday – Luke 22:7-38
- Friday – Luke 22:39-23:56a
- Saturday – Luke 23:56b
- Sunday – Luke 24:1-12

### **Stations of the Cross**

in-person or online: <https://youtu.be/Ldhp7mKh7fg?si=zMAh4a3zhoUnCf7M>

### **Join us for services:**

In-person or livestreamed.

- Palm Sunday (4/13) @10:00 only (no 8:00 service)
- Maundy Thursday (4/17) @6:00 pm (with footwashing)
- Good Friday (4/18) @noon
- The Great Vigil (4/19) @8:00 pm
- Easter (4/20) @8:00 and 10:00 am

With love,  
Drew+

# LENT

2025

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## FOR SUNDAY

*Palm / Passion*

April 13, 2025

### **Collect**

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

### **Reading**

Luke 19:28-40

After telling a parable to the crowd at Jericho, Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

# LENT

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## Reflection

The entrance into Holy Week is the culmination of a journey and also the beginning of a new journey into the heart of the empire's occupation. We come here having heard a prophetic prediction of his passion and death, having learned of the humble character of Jesus's messianic vision. So when we hear the evidence of a plan, of something profound coming together, we aren't so much surprised, are we, as we are desirous of participating, of following Jesus into this next stage of the journey.

Jesus knows things. Not just what Rome, Herod's soldiers, and the Temple leaders will do over the next few days, but where to find a donkey and how to make it available to them. It's a strange thing to know, really. But he does. And when it is there and the disciples are able to secure it, is there truly any wonder of what will follow? Just listen.

In the days to come, we will read of the event in the Temple and the teaching there the next day: actions that will secure Jesus's death warrant alongside the immense popularity of his teaching. We will see the preparation of the disciples, the Passover and Last Supper, the Garden, the betrayal, arrest, and condemnation, and then, in the end, the crucifixion.

We must enter into the story with understanding — for the goodness of God and the righteousness of Jesus — for the hope in Jesus's Way of Love and the compassion necessary to embody it — for the evil of empire and its predilection for cruelty — that we may see the absurdity of thinking this has so little to do with us or the opposite: that this is a reflection on humanity as a whole. This sham trial of an innocent man was no more necessary than it was essential — and yet it was entirely predictable. And it reflects the humble way of Jesus. It is the vision of God's dream that we received because of the hubris of pathetic men. And yet, God's glory shines through it.

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