

Lent 2025



Lent is a time of preparation and repentance as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter. It is a time of personal reflection, of penitence for our sins, and a reminder of our great need for God's grace and forgiveness. As Christians, Lent is a time for us to renew our commitment to Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord.

This year, we will hear Jesus' teaching in Mark's Gospel. The scripture for the sixth week of Lent is Mark 11:1-11, the familiar account of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on what we now call Palm Sunday. Jesus entered Jerusalem on a colt that had never been ridden, people laid their cloaks on the path, and they waved palm branches. Each of these items, colt, cloaks, and branches are a symbol from the Old Testament that proclaim the arrival of a king. They describe not only the arrival of a king, but a victorious king. The victory Jesus' is celebrating is his arrival as the Messiah, the son of great king David, who will sit on the throne of God's kingdom. Jesus is also celebrating his upcoming victory over death and the grave. Palm branches were a common sign of victory in the Biblical world and culture.

Our symbol this week is a Palm Branch and the OGHS offering fish banks. Take your Palm Branch home as a reminder that Jesus is our victorious king and the Lord of our lives.