

## Sermon Outline

April 12      Matthew 20:29-34  
"The Miracle of Sight"

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✝ The Pilgrimage

✝ Blind men

✝ Bold men

✝ The Miracle of Sight!

## ✝ Points to Ponder to Prepare

April 19      Matthew 21:1-11  
"The Pilgrimage Becomes a Parade"

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It is difficult to preach through the gospels in rhythm with the church year. This is because roughly a third of the material in the gospels falls between Palm Sunday and Easter. That is why it may feel a little anticlimactic to return to the story of the triumphal entry just after Lent and Easter have passed, but we will walk with Jesus through some of his closing days for the next month.

We use the English word "triumph" is a general description of the glory surrounding victory. But in ancient Roman culture, the Latin word "triumphus" described a specific ritual. A "triumph" was a parade where a conquering general returned to Rome with his victorious troops before him and his defeated enemies dragged behind. This imagery of a "triumph" is important to understanding Bible verses like 2 Corinthians 2:14 and Colossians 2:15.

Reflect on the irony of Jesus hailed as a conquering king with shouts of "Hosanna" and recognition that he is the coming Son of David with a parade of victor's palms as he skitters along the back of a small donkey, with no army other than his disciples and the Passover pilgrims. Little children lead the way.

## Scripture readings for the week

Sunday April 12	Numbers 3-4
Monday April 13	Numbers 5
Tuesday April 14	Numbers 6
Wed April 15	Numbers 7
Thursday April 16	Numbers 8
Friday April 17	Numbers 9
Saturday April 18	Numbers 10-11
Sunday April 19	Numbers 12-13

## Prayer Focus

We pray today for the men and women serving in our armed forces.

- ✝ Marv and Donna Bode's grandson, Tyler, stationed with the Air Force in Italy.
- ✝ Lyn and Dawn's nephew Josh, recently activated and deployed with the Air Force Reserves.
- ✝ Jack and Emma Rose (Barton) in Hawaii. Jack is active duty in logistics and readiness. Emma is a reservist who has been serving actively with her unit the last couple months.
- ✝ Ethan Barton is training as a helicopter pilot in Florida. He should complete his training in the next couple months.

May God watch over all our nation's sons and daughters who serve in uniform.