



# Summer Blockbuster Reading Challenge

3 months—4 Gospels—Go!

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 2022



### Take your Pulse

It is Friday, what was the best thing about this week?

It is Friday, what are you looking forward to leaving behind this week?

### Today's Reading

John Chapter 12

Chapter 12 marks the transition in John's Gospel from Jesus' ministry to Jesus' passion. Jesus is anointed by Mary, with the Judas complaint about the waste of money. Jesus enters Jerusalem on what we call Palm Sunday, though notice the details are very different from the other Gospels. Jesus selects the donkey, instead of sending a disciple for it, and there is no cleansing of the temple scene. John placed that story all the way back in chapter 2. Then it is revealed that Jesus' "hour" has come. Throughout John's Gospel, he uses the expression "Hour" to refer to when Jesus will be glorified. And Jesus knows his moment of being glorified will come when he is crucified. We are on a direct collision course with those events, and John gives us the impression Jesus is in control of this whole series of events about to unfold.



### Start the Thinking

Have you ever tried to see someone important, only to get rebuffed? Some Greeks come to Jesus' disciples, and they try to get them in to see Jesus. Jesus offers a bizarre response that doesn't answer the question—did they see him? So, who was it you tried to see but never could?



### Conversing with God

Light of the World, you came into the world not to judge, but to save. Your commandment is for all to have eternal life. Open our hearts to hear your judgment on us, release us from all that weighs us down and keeps us from experiencing your eternal life. In your holy name we pray. Amen



### Be blessed

Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ, our Savior, is alive! The grave could not hold him. Christ is alive! There is joy this morning! Go into the world with joy. Tell the world Christ lives. Tell the world of God's love. Go, my sisters and brothers, go without fear; go without shame; go without apology. Go in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.