



First Lutheran Church

Gospel of Matthew

Summer 2026 Reading Challenge



Introduction

Week 11: Matthew chapters 21 and 22

Matthew 21:1-17

Matthew 21:18-46

Matthew 22:1-46

Chapter Outline

Jesus enters Jerusalem and disrupts the Temple

Jesus' authority questioned by Pharisees

Jesus continues to respond to questions about his identity

What to Expect

Chapter 21 begins the stories which we have later defined as "Holy Week". For liturgical purposes, the church has used Sunday as the day Jesus enters Jerusalem. This coincides with some dates that are mentioned in other gospels besides Matthew. It is important to not get hung up on which day of the week these events take place. Matthew was not concerned, he is laying out a theological case for Jesus, not a diary style accounting of events.

Based on clues within Matthew's story, though, we can assume the events of Jesus' entry to Jerusalem actually take place on a Monday, with teachings taking place on Tuesday, the story eventually in chapter 22 of the chief priests plotting to arrest Jesus as taking place on Wednesday, the last supper on Thursday, and the crucifixion on Friday. Matthew does use the phrase "The day after the day of preparation" to describe the day the guards protected the tomb, and this would be the day of Sabbath, so Saturday.

After Jesus disrupts the temple practices, he leaves and returns to the city to face a lot of questions from Pharisees, to Sadducees and others. Each question is replied to either with a question or a parable. Jesus muddies the waters for those looking for clear answers ... and remember, Jesus opened the eyes of two blind men in Jericho just before getting to Jerusalem. So, the blind can see, but the seeing become blind to who Jesus is.

It is in chapter 22, that we do hear famous teachings like whether we should pay taxes to the emperor and what the greatest commandment is. Matthew uses this section as we begin the events of holy week to demonstrate one more time how Jesus aligns with God's kingdom and opposes those who align with the ways of the world.

2026 Summer Reading Challenge

Throughout this summer, First Lutheran Church will engage the Gospel of Matthew.

Each week we will read 2 chapters of Matthew.

Resources will be available along the way, including:

- An introduction to the week
- A Deep Dive into a big theme of Matthew's Gospel
- A Deep Dive into one part of this week's reading
- A Devotional based on one part of this week's reading
- A Video to read along with Pastor Jamie.

Check out our website and our Facebook page for weekly and daily postings related to this reading challenge.

Gathered by God, we live our faith with: Compassion, Grace, Gratitude, and Joy

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