

Sunday, April 5: Palm Sunday:



Begin with prayer:

It is right to praise you, almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. The Hebrews acclaimed Jesus as Messiah and King, with palm branches in their hands, crying, Hosanna in the highest. May we also, carrying these emblems, go forth to meet Christ and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

Read Luke 19:28-40 (or listen to the children's Bible version)

After he had said this, he 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, 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."

Something to Think About:

Jesus' final week begins with triumph. He comes into Jerusalem to such adoration—the palms waving, the shouts of praise, the crowds calling out for Him to save them. What a remarkable scene that would have been! When Jesus says that the stones would cry out if the people were silent, don't you almost wish the people had been quiet for just a second so the voices of the rocks could have been heard? There is something so uplifting about a parade when everyone is cheering for one thing, be it Santa Claus or the Toronto Raptors or the cause of justice. And yet, a crowd can turn ugly sometimes. This crowd will also turn ugly on Friday when they will chant, "Crucify!" instead of "Hosanna!"

If you have a palm leaf or an evergreen branch from outside, wave it joyously as you sing one or more of the songs listed below. If you want to parade around your home singing and waving, please do. When you have finished, place the branch on the table for the week. It will dry out as the week goes on, much like the enthusiasm of the crowd.

Songs:

Hosanna (Praise is Rising) www.youtube.com/watch?v=p8xHr8krAll

Hosanna in the Highest www.youtube.com/watch?v=p8xHr8krAll

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPSKbXxpudU>

Ride on, Ride on in Majesty <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LcxG2JasPds>

All Glory, Laud and Honour www.youtube.com/watch?v=9xAH7732uhw