

# PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

## SUNDAY LITURGY



**Palm Sunday**

**2 April 2023 - Year A**

**“Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.”**

### Something to Think About

The people in today’s gospel wave palm branches and cheer loudly to welcome Jesus. How might you welcome Jesus into your heart today?

### The Story

Jesus sends his disciples to find a donkey and her colt. The disciples place clothes on the animals’ backs, and then Jesus rides into Jerusalem on the donkey. The people throw their cloaks on the ground and wave branches and shout *Hosanna*, which means 'save us'. There is great excitement as the people welcome Jesus and praise God.

### The Scriptures

**A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew**

**21:1-11**

When Jesus and his disciples came near to Jerusalem, he went to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives and sent two of his disciples on ahead.

He told them, “Go into the next village, where you will at once find a donkey and her colt. Untie the two donkeys and bring them to me. If anyone asks why you are doing that, just say, ‘The Lord needs them.’ Right away he will let you have the donkeys.”

So God’s promise came true, just as the prophet had said,

“Announce to the people of Jerusalem: ‘Your king is coming to you!

He is humble and rides on a donkey. He comes on the colt of a donkey.’”

The disciples left and did what Jesus had told them to do.

They brought the donkey and its colt and laid some clothes on their backs. Then Jesus got on.

Many people spread clothes in the road, while others put down branches which they had cut from trees. Some people walked ahead of Jesus and others followed behind.

They were all shouting, “Hosanna for the Son of David! God bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hooray for God in heaven above!”

When Jesus came to Jerusalem, everyone in the city was excited and asked, “Who can this be?”

The crowd answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Video

Click to watch the video: [The Triumphal Entry](#)



## Group Discussion

Jesus made quite a long trip to Jerusalem.

Invite the children to reflect on a time they went on a trip.

Ask them to share some of the good memories. Then ask them to share some of the not-so-happy memories.

## Praying For Others

*Leader:* Gathered together as God's family, we pray for the needs of the world.

*Reader 1:* We pray for the leaders of our Church and our world. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 2:* We pray for our family and friends. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 3:* We pray for those who must make a long journey. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 4:* We pray for those who do not know God. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 5:* We pray for those who are afraid to love as Jesus did. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.*

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

**All: Amen.**

## Prayer



Dear Jesus,  
We lift our minds and hearts in joyful  
praise! Bless us and all those we love as  
we await the celebration of Easter.  
Amen.

## Group Activity

### Palm Sunday Craft

*You will need: green paper in a couple of different shades, pencil, scissors, glue, strip of cardboard, large craft stick.*

1. Draw around the child's hand on the paper 6 times or more. The more hands, the bigger the leaf.
2. Glue hands together to make a palm shape.
3. Glue a strip of cardboard on the reverse to stabilise it.
4. Affix a craft stick to the base, and allow children to wave their palm leaves.
5. You can watch a [YouTube explanation video](#) here.





# TELL THE STORY OF PALM SUNDAY

## WRITE THE STORY UNDER EACH PICTURE

1. Jesus said: 'Go to the village and find a donkey for me'.
2. The disciples put a cloth on its back, and Jesus got on.
3. People cut branches from the palm trees to wave for Jesus.
4. They cried out, 'Hooray! Bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord!'
5. In Jerusalem, everyone was excited and said, 'Who can this be?' The people said, 'This is Jesus!'

