

Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way



March 20, 2016

Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 22:15-23:56 or Luke 23:1-29



The Praise Parade. Object: Anything which would remind the children of a parade.

There is hardly anything that is more fun and exciting than a parade. Have you ever been to a parade? Sure you have. Perhaps it was a circus parade, or a Christmas parade, but I am sure you have all been to a parade. Sometimes a parade is part of a really big celebration. A parade today reminds me of something that took place in the city of Jerusalem about 2000 years ago.

Jesus and his followers were traveling to the city of Jerusalem. The city was going to have a big celebration called Passover that would last for a whole week. Well, as they were traveling, they came to a place called the Mount of Olives. They stopped there and Jesus gave his disciples some special instructions. "Go into that village over there," he told them. "As you enter it, you will see a young donkey tied there that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks, 'Why are you untying that donkey?' just say, 'The Lord needs it.'"

So the disciples went and found the young donkey, just as Jesus had told them they would. And sure enough, as they were untying it, the owner asked them, "Why are you untying that donkey?" They simply answered, "The Lord needs it."

The disciples took the young donkey to Jesus and they put coats on its back so that Jesus would have a nice, soft seat as he rode it into town. Word spread quickly through the town that Jesus was coming. He had become quite famous because people had heard about his healing the sick and even raising the dead. As Jesus entered the town, a large crowd had gathered. People began to throw their coats on the road in front of Jesus. They cut branches from the palm trees and waved them and they began to shout, "Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord."

It must have looked like a parade as Jesus went through the streets of Jerusalem with everyone waving and cheering. But as exciting as all this was, the people really did not know who Jesus was. They thought he was going to set up an earthly kingdom and that he would do great things for them here on earth. They did not understand that his kingdom was in heaven. In just a few days, these same people who were shouting, "Hosanna!" would be shouting, "Crucify him!" because he wasn't the kind of king they wanted.

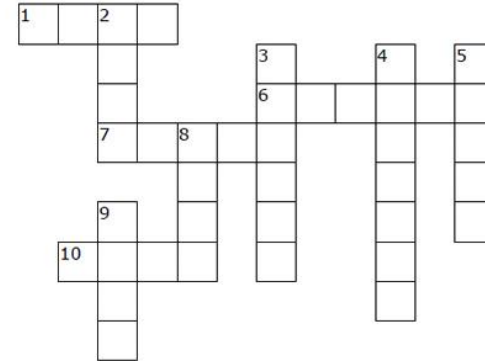
The Good News today is that Jesus is King. He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Today we are here to praise him and we shout, "Hosanna!" Do you know what that word means? It means "Save now!" That is why we shout hosanna, because Jesus saves -- Jesus alone.

Gospel Acclamation: Christ humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name. (Phil. 2:8-9)

Dear Jesus, our voices join with the voices of the people in Jerusalem some two thousand years ago. Hosanna! You are our hope and our salvation. Amen.

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Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- A male ruler of a country
- To express admiration or approval of something or someone
- To go into a place
- A pathway for vehicles, persons, and animals; a street or highway

DOWN

- What a person is called
- To stretch out over a large area
- A small town
- The Son of God
- Secured with a piece of rope
- A young animal of the horse family; especially one under one year

PRAISE	ROAD	TIED	JESUS	COLT
ENTER	SPREAD	VILLAGE	KING	NAME

DONKEY PUPPET: Give each child a brown paper lunch bag to decorate as a donkey. Let the donkey puppet tell parts of our Palm Sunday story - or the puppet could answer questions about today's story as others ask questions.

EASTER PALM TREE: Each child will need a strip of brown construction paper which will form the trunk of the tree and one piece of green construction paper. The children will trace their hands on the piece of green construction paper, cut it out, and glue it with the fingers point downward to the tree trunk to form the branches of the palm tree.



THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY



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