

PALM SUNDAY

Behold, your King is coming to you, lowly,
and sitting on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.
(Matthew 21:5)

The Lord came on earth because He loves us and without His coming, no one could have been saved. By fighting and defeating the hells and by making His Human Divine, the Lord became the Savior and Redeemer. The story of Palm Sunday pictures the way we can look to the Lord, praising Him and asking for His help to conquer our evils.

READING THE WORD: The Palm Sunday Story in Different Gospels

Read and compare the different accounts of the Palm Sunday story. Reading them all gives us a clearer picture of the excitement among the people greeting the Lord as their King.

Matthew 21:1-11

Mark 11:1-10

Luke 19:29-38

John 12:12-16

Note the stories that come right before and after the story in each gospel. How do these give us a fuller idea of the Lord's mission on earth? Do they suggest ways that He would like to help us spiritually?

READ: "Rejoice!" A Family Talk for Palm Sunday by the Rt. Rev. Louis B. King

READ: "Welcoming the King" by the Rev. Kurt Horigan Asplundh

This is an illustrated children's talk designed for use with young children.

(Note: This talk is part of the Early Childhood Program with creative instructional activities for preschoolers of all ages. Contact the [Office of Education](#) for more information.)

PROJECT: Figures for a Palm Sunday Diorama (*ages 8-12*)

Figures that can be printed on paper, colored with markers, cut out, and then set up as a diorama.

PROJECT: The Lord's Triumphal Ride into Jerusalem

COLORING PAGE: Entering Jerusalem by Marguerite L. Acton

SING: "Ride on, Ride on in Majesty"

PROJECT: Make a Palm Branch (*ages 4-9*)

Use green paper to make palms, cutting slits at an angle to suggest the palm fronds.

ACTIVITY: Dramatize the Palm Sunday Story (*ages 4-9*)

Use "palm branches" and garments of clothing on the floor while a narrator reads the story in Matthew 21:1-9. Let everyone join in repeating how the multitude praised the Lord: "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" (Matthew 21:9).

COLORING PAGE: Getting the Donkey and Colt for the Lord

PROJECT: A Panorama of the Palm Sunday Procession (*ages 6-9*)

A lovely picture in 3 panels to color and then assemble as a triptych for display in your home.

ACTIVITY: A Palm Sunday Jigsaw Puzzle (*ages 5-8*)

SING: “Shout the Glad Tidings Exultantly Sing”

Young children find it easy to learn the joyous chorus.

PROJECT: Palm Sunday Diorama (*ages 9-12*)

This diorama provides a background to color and place behind the figures.

ACTIVITY: Palm Sunday Word Scramble (*ages 7-12*)

PROJECT: Journey to Jerusalem by Ruth D. Gyllenhall

Pictures the Lord’s journey from Bethphage (at the Mount of Olives) toward Jerusalem.

ACTIVITY: Joy of the Heart (*ages 12-up*)

Palms symbolize spiritual good, and all joy of the heart is from this good. Truth becomes good when we live according to it. Write truths that you know and use in your life on a “palm branch”. These are the truths that bring us joy!

ACTIVITY: Celebration of Palm Sunday in Israel (*ages 10-14*)

Read about Palm Sunday being celebrated in Israel by people from all over the world. You may want to make your own palm branch or banner to express your joy that the Lord is King of heaven and earth.

SING: The Lord Is Risen Again!

THE LORD OUR KING

The Lord is King for ever and ever (Psalm 10:16).

The Lord is King over all creation. He rules heaven and earth. Our spiritual King is all-knowing, all-powerful, and ever-present with us.

FAMILY WORSHIP: The Lord Our King

There are many beautiful quotations in the Old and New Testaments about the Lord as our King. Some of these are collected in [Quotes about the Lord as King](#). Your family might enjoy taking turns reading these quotes aloud, and then discussing ways the Lord is our King. See the family talks and sermons on the Lord as King for more on this topic.

READ: “The Lord As King” by B. David Holm

READ: “Joy that Our Lord Is King” a family talk by the Rev. Norbert Rogers

PROJECT: Picturing the Lord as Our King (*ages 7-14*)

Make a picture of the Lord as King with a beautiful crown on His head and shining white garments.

SING: Come Thou Almighty King

PROJECT: And the King of Glory Shall Come In (*ages 6-10*)

Make a doorway for the King of Glory!

PROJECT: Make a Paper Crown (*ages 5-10*)

Help your children make a beautiful crown to put near the Word or suspend above it. Let them decorate it with glitter or “gems” cut out of colored paper. On this crown, you may want to write “The Lord is our King” (Isaiah 33:22) or “King of kings and Lord of lords” (Revelation 19:16) or “You are my King” (Psalm 44:4) or “The Lord is King forever and ever” (Psalm 10:16).

ACTIVITY: “Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples!” (*ages 5-8*)

Psalm 47 is a song of praise for the Lord our King. Children will enjoy reciting this (reading it, memorizing it, or repeating each line after you). It lends itself to hand gestures. Children might also want to use tambourines, little horns, and other musical instruments to praise the Lord.

ACTIVITY: The Lord Is King Writing Project (*ages 8-14*)

“Christ” is Greek for Messiah. Try writing Messiah in Hebrew and Christ in Greek.

SPIRITUAL TASK: The Lord as Our King

SUBMISSION TO THE LORD OUR KING

*In order that He may make a person blessed and happy,
the Lord wills total submission (Arcana Coelestia 6138:2).*

If we choose to make the Lord King in our lives, we will find ourselves blessed both in this world and to eternity. But acknowledging the Lord as King must be done on several levels. Many of the people praising the Lord on Palm Sunday turned against Him when it became clear that His goals were different than their own. Looking to the Lord as our King is a life-long process of learning His truths, trying to obey them, and wanting to do the Lord’s will.

READ: “Submitting Our Lives to the Lord” by the Rev. Daniel Heinrichs

READ: “Joy, Sadness, & Joy” a sermon by the Rev. Patrick A. Rose

JOURNAL PAGE: Praise the Lord for His Mighty Works (*ages 10-up*)

The multitude of disciples or followers praised the Lord “with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen” (Luke 19:37). Think about the mighty works the Lord has done in your life. You may want to write these down on the **journal page** provided.

FOR REFLECTION: Hosanna (*for teens and adults*)

“Hosanna” means “Save us, we beseech You!” or “Save us now we pray!” Only the Lord can save us from our spiritual enemies—evil thoughts and loves that would keep us from looking to the Lord and following Him. But why do we need to *ask* the Lord to save us?

ACTIVITY: Bowing Down Before the Lord *(for teens and adults)*

Why does the Lord want humility, worship, and thanksgiving from us?

SPIRITUAL TASK: Serve the Lord by Serving Others

READ: “The Prince of Peace” by the Rt. Rev. Louis B. King

ACTIVITY: Lift Up Your Heads! *(for teens and adults)*

When we look to the Lord as our King, we realize that we need His help as we face daily challenges. Reading passages in the Word is one way we can avail ourselves of the comfort and strength the Lord wants to give each of us. Here are some suggestions for using quotes from the Word to help you “lift up your head”.