

***Oak Arbor New Church Sunday School: Lessons for Preschool – Kindergarten***

**Lesson 2.23: TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM**  
**Matt. 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:29-38; and John 12:12-16**

**TEACHER PREPARATION**

Read over Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:29-38; and John 12:12-16.

*(Note: If you have the suede-graph set for this story, have it ready.)*

**WORSHIP CIRCLE**

**STORY AND DISCUSSION**

It was springtime in the land where Jesus lived. The air was warm, flowers were blooming, and people were happy because they were going to celebrate the Passover soon. Crowds of people were filling the roads that led to Jerusalem. They were happy and excited as they looked forward to praising God in the beautiful temple, going to the Feast, and meeting out-of-town friends again.

*(Suede-graph of disciples getting donkey)*

Jesus and His disciples were on their way to Jerusalem, too. He sent two of the disciples to look for a donkey. He had told them just where to find it. It would be tied right by the village gate. It was a donkey that had never been ridden before. Jesus was going to ride it. He told them that if anyone asks why they are untying the donkey they are to answer “The Lord has need of him,” and the owners will let you take him. The disciples found the donkey just as the Lord had described to them, and when they untied it the owners came rushing out, but they answered just as the Lord had instructed them, and the owners gladly let them take the donkey for Him.

*(Suede-graph of Jesus on donkey, throngs of people, and palms)*

The disciples took the donkey back to Jesus, and they put their coats on to make a saddle for Him, and Jesus got on. When the people saw Jesus coming, they began to shout with joy! “Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Hosanna means something like our expression, “Praise the Lord”).

People were very excited to see Jesus riding a donkey, just as the prophets had said it would happen. Some people cut branches off the palm trees. They laid branches on the road. Other people spread their coats on the road. These were things that the people always did to make a brightly colored path for a king to travel on. And they all praised God in loud voices for all the wonderful things that He does. Boys and girls joined the parade. They picked flowers and threw them on the road to make a beautiful carpet for Jesus to ride over. Joyfully they waved their long, fan-like palm branches.

*(Add children and flowers to the suede-graph scene.)*

Jesus rode to the city of Jerusalem. The crowds of happy people followed him. But the leaders of the people were bad, and they were jealous of the Lord's power. They wanted to stop the Lord from helping people.

### **Questions for the Children:**

1. What were the people preparing to celebrate? The Jewish holiday of Passover.
2. What did Jesus send his two disciples to look for? A special donkey.
3. What did the disciples use for a saddle? Their coats.
4. What did the people shout when Jesus came? Hosanna.
5. What does Hosanna mean? Praise the Lord.
6. What did the people spread on the road for the Lord to ride over? Palm branches and clothing.

### **RECITATION**

You can sing or say together the refrain from hymn #249 in the *Liturgy* (1995):

All glory praise and honor, to Thee, Redeemer, King!  
To whom the lips of children made sweet Hosannas ring.

### **PROJECT**

#### **Ahead of Time:**

1. Photocopy the picture with the Lord on the donkey. (Make one for each child.)
2. Cut many small palm leaves out of green paper, and many rectangles of cloth (to represent clothing).
3. Have a glue stick for each child, and crayons to share.

#### **Doing the Project:**

1. Have the children color the picture of the Lord.
2. Have children glue on palm leaves and "robes".

And a very great multitude spread their garments on the road,  
others cut down branches from the trees  
and spread them on the road.

