

It's Palm Sunday!

Have you ever been really excited to see someone? Was there a time you were excited to see family that doesn't live close, maybe meeting your brother/sister when they were born or seeing your friends at school after summer break? Did you do anything special on those occasions? Did you make a sign, a card/picture, or did you run up and hug them? What about now, who are you excited to see when we can go out again? Are you going to do anything special for them?

When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem people were so excited to see him. They had traveled from all over, some people came from very far away! This was a big deal on its own because traveling wasn't the same then as it is now, so the trip was longer and harder. They also heard that Jesus was coming without the newspaper or internet, so word traveled fast from person to person and people went to see him.

When he arrived in Jerusalem riding on a donkey they stood around the streets, you could compare it to a parade. They had palm leaves that they waved and laid down on the road along with their coats, as he passed through. To us now it seems like an odd thing to do, lay your coat on the ground for someone to walk over, but it was their way of honoring him and showing how excited they were to see him. It was their way of welcoming him! They shouted "Hosanna" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" and "Hosanna in the highest!"

To remember this time, we celebrate with palm leaves in service, we sing songs of praise and wave them around. It is our way of remembering what Jesus did for us and honoring him. Even though we can't see him, isn't it exciting to know that he is always there for us?

We were supposed to sing today in church with the choir, but instead here is a new Hosanna song that I'd love for you to learn. It is short and easy! Make your own palm leaves (see below) then sing the song, wave your palms, and praise Jesus!

How to make a palm:

Take a sheet of paper (green if you have it, if not color it green), fold it lengthwise, cut the oval leaf shape, then cut slits in to the side opposite if the fold, open it up and you have a palm leaf!



VIDEO- <https://youtu.be/Kht2SR8P0ko>

Here is the scripture for the lesson today:

Matthew 21: 8-9

<sup>8</sup>Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup>And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"