

What is Palm Sunday

Jesus Enters Jerusalem SBR 2020

The next day the large crowd that had come for the feast heard that Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem. So they took branches from palm trees and went out to meet Him.

They shouted, "Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the King of Israel!"

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it. This is just as it is written in Scripture. It says, "City of Zion, do not be afraid. See, your King is coming. He is sitting on a donkey's colt."

John 12:12-15 NIV

Sunday is Palm Sunday. It is the day we celebrate Jesus's arrival into Jerusalem, and it is the first day of Holy Week in the Christian Church. Holy Week is the week prior to Easter Day.

If you had been raised in the Jewish faith in Bible times, you would have had many lessons on Hebrew scripture, what we call the Old Testament. Hebrew scripture said God will send a king to free, or save, His people. The king will arrive on a donkey. This writing is called a prophecy, or a prediction, of what is to come. If you were Jewish in Bible times, you would have known this prophecy.

During this time in the Bible, Jesus was preaching and teaching and doing miracles all over their country. Most people in the area had either seen Him or heard about Him, and they started to wonder if Jesus was the king they had learned about. Finally, Jesus came to Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish holiday of Passover...and He arrived on a donkey!

This made the people of Israel excited! They thought Jesus was going to come into their land, fight all those who had been hurting them, and conquer the Roman soldiers and Caesar. They did not understand Jesus came to do bigger things. They did not understand Jesus came to earth to defeat the devil and death. They did not understand Jesus was God's Son. So, thinking Jesus was an earthly king, the people celebrated Jesus' coming to Jerusalem as an earthly soldier and conqueror. They cheered for Him and treated Him as a hero of the land. They waved their palms to welcome Him.

Although Palm Sunday was a time of celebration, the people in the crowd did not know or understand the real story. This happens to us, too. We know to come to God; we know to praise God, but we do not always know His plan for us. Sometimes this is frustrating; sometimes it causes us to worry. But God always wants the best for us. He knows how to set our paths straight - we only need to follow Him.

Lately, when people tell us to praise God and trust God's plan, it is especially hard. We have illness all around us and we can't go to church to celebrate the beginning of Holy Week. We also won't be able to go to church on Easter, or see our friends and family to celebrate. This is hard for many of us.

You are not alone. Even though you can't see Jesus, He is always with us. He is our true King. He died on the cross to save us from our sins. He is the reason we celebrate Holy Week and Easter.

I hope you can find joy around you. Look for the goodness; count your blessings. Know that Jesus is always with you. May you be filled with His peace.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank You for coming to earth to be our true King. Thank You for dying on the cross to save us from our sins. Jesus, there are times when we do not understand Your plan. Please forgive us and help us trust in You. Help us tell others the true reason You are our King. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Palm Sunday Celebration

SBR 2020

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Blessed is the King of Israel!"*

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John 12:12-15 NIV

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Home Celebration

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tdmkR8SazYU> Why Jesus rode a donkey? Dive Thru History

Watch for fun: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0rdrcHLIs5c&t=78s> Skit guys

Make Palm Branches: Materials needed: paper (green is great but any will do), paint sticks (or wooden spoons), glue (or tape), pen or pencil, scissors

- Trace your hand several times, fingers out, on paper.
- Cut out hands.
- Attach paper hands to paint stick.
- You now have a "palm" branch!



Read the Bible verse. Practice shouting, "Hosanna!"

Have a parade of celebration around the room. Wave your palm branches and shout, "Hosanna!"

Continue your parade by listening/dancing to praises:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p8xHr8krAll&list=RDp8xHr8krAll&start_radio=1&t=63

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yrukH62mxMk> by Christafari

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NSBR-r9B_94



Use this time to take personal prayer requests. Add them to the prayer below.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank You for coming to earth to be our true King. Thank You for Your humility. Thank You for dying on the cross to save us from our sins. Jesus, there are times when we do not understand Your plan. Please forgive us and help us trust in You. Help us tell others the true reason You are our King. Today, we'd like to pray for [prayer requests go here.] In Your name we pray. Amen.

Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna! Jesus is our King! Hang your branches on the front door of your home to help your neighborhood celebrate Palm Sunday.