

PALM SUNDAY

April 5, 2020

Introduction:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Scripture:

Today's First Reading paves the way for what is perhaps the most captivating - and definitely the longest - Gospel reading of the year: Jesus' suffering and crucifixion. But, right before the suffering, there was joy and celebration as Jesus entered Jerusalem! That's what we read about first today.

Nearly all the people in the crowd threw their garments down on the road, giving him a royal welcome. Others cut branches from the palm trees and threw them down as a welcome mat. Crowds hurried ahead and crowds followed, all of them calling out, "Hosanna to David's son! Blessed is he who comes in God's name! Hosanna in highest heaven!"

Matthew 21: 6-9

Read the verses one more time. Imagine you were there. Picture what you might see around you!

Reflection:

People lined the streets of Jerusalem, excited to see Jesus. For centuries, their ancestors had spoken of a savior who would deliver the Jewish people from oppression and suffering. Everyone expected a king!

Jesus wasn't a powerful warrior or a wealthy monarch riding on a golden chariot. He was a humble carpenter, riding on a donkey. But that didn't stop the celebration.

It must have meant so much to Jesus that so many people were there for him. By welcoming and celebrating Jesus, they were welcoming and celebrating the fullness of God's love and mercy. Could anything bring more joy to Jesus' heart than that?

Jesus knew the suffering that was still to come, but imagine how much this celebration meant to him as he prepared for the cross.

Activity:

Unfortunately, we can't go back in time and be there as Jesus entered Jerusalem. But, we can still celebrate just like the people of Jerusalem did! Help Jesus take your gratitude, joy and love to the cross. Use the directions below to "magically" create a cross out of paper. Then, draw and color the things in your life that make you feel grateful, joyful and loved!

