

# Sunday, March 28, 2010

## Palm Sunday

### Preparation:

Read [Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29](#) and [Luke 19: 28-40](#) the readings for this Sunday over. Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump out at you.

Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yearc/palmssc.htm>

<http://children.calvarychapel.com/site/pdf/New/Curr220.pdf>

<http://www.msscrafter.com/newtestament/palmsunday.htm>

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/rockconcert.html>

<http://www.ebibleteacher.com/children/lessons/JentersJerusalem.htm>

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/palmsun.htm>

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/palmsunmart.htm>

### Gathering:

Materials needed:

Small table or end of one table

Candle

Candle lighter

Bible & Bookmark

Red cloth

Newsprint and markers

Basket, star, heart, bread, water droplet shapes and palm branch shape at end of lesson

Pencils or pens

Green construction paper

Copy the palm branch shape at the end of the lesson. Trace it onto the green construction paper and make one for each child. Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you. Gather around the small table or at the end of one table. With the children place the red cloth on the table. Have them help you place the basket, the candle and the Bible on the cloth. Light the candle.

Pray the following prayer together:

**For a time to prayer, we will bless you God,**

**For a time to learn, we will bless you Jesus,**

**For a time to grow, we will bless you Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

Give each child a palm branch shape. Ask them to think about the time they were the most excited. Give them a few moments to reflect on that with you. When people of faith get excited about something that is going to happen they often say out loud, "Thank you God" or "Praise you God". Even during sad times people of faith will often say "God will be with us". These moments of praise are important for all of us. Invite the children to write or draw a praise to God on their palm branch and then place them in the basket on the worship table. Blow out the candle.

**Story Time:**

*Materials:* green streamers or newspaper, marker, strong tape, blankets or towels.

*Instructions:* This will be an active story, so make sure you have enough space for it. Put three long pieces of streamer together (1 metre or 3 feet in length) by wrapping tape at one end. Print '**HOSANNA**' on the streamers. If you do not have green streamers then cut the newspaper into long strips and tape one end together and print '**HOSANNA**' on the strips. Make one for each child. Place the blankets or towels where you can get at them.

Teach the children the following:

**Hosanna to the King!** – get them to practice saying it as loud as they can.

*Have everyone stand up and get ready for the story.*

Jesus was making his way to Jerusalem. He was the friends who had been with him for a long time. There was Peter, Andrew, Mary Magdalene, James, John, Joanna and many others. They all knew that something important was going to happen.

When they came to the Mount of Olives Jesus sent two of his friends ahead of the rest. He told them, "Go into the village ahead of us. When you get there you will find a colt that has never been ridden tied up. Untie it and bring it to me. If anyone asks you what you are doing, just tell them I sent you and they will give you the donkey."

*Have the children shout - Hosanna to the King! and wave their streamers.*

The two friends came to the village and there was the donkey just as Jesus said it would be. They began to untie the colt. The owner of the colt came out and said to the two friends, "What are you doing with my colt?"

They told him, "Jesus needs it."

The owner nodded and let them take the colt to Jesus.

*Have the children shout - Hosanna to the King! and wave their streamers.*

They brought the colt to Jesus and couple of the friends threw their cloaks on it. *Spread a blanket out on the floor.* Then Jesus climbed up on the colt. As Jesus rode on his way to Jerusalem other people starting placing their cloaks on the ground in front of him. *Spread out the other blankets or towels and invite the children to stand on them with you.*

*Have the children shout - Hosanna to the King! and wave their streamers.*

Everyone became very excited and started praising God for all the wonderful deeds that Jesus had done.

*Have the children shout - Hosanna to the King! and wave their streamers.*

They started to shout, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God. Peace in heaven and glory to God in highest!"

*Have the children shout - Hosanna to the King! and wave their streamers.*

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Tell them all to stop shouting like that."

"Virtual Church School -- Anglican Church of Canada, Council of the North ... <http://dioceseofkeewatin.ca/virtual-church-school>"

Jesus said, "I tell you that if they stopped shouting even the stones on the ground would shout out to praise God."

*Have the children shout - Hosanna to the King! and wave their streamers.*

*Take a moment with the children to tidy up the story area before moving on.*

**Response:**

**Idea #1: Holy Week Easter Eggs**

*Holy Week is a time that we can each walk with Jesus through his last days and await the joy of Easter. These Easter Eggs will invite families to take up that walk together.*

*Materials needed:* Easter Egg shape at end of lesson, scissors, construction paper, markers, Holy Week activities from end of lesson, glue sticks

*Instructions:* Copy the Easter Egg shape, cut it out and trace onto the construction paper. Make six (6) for each child. Copy the Holy Week activities out and make one for each child. Give each their six (6) egg shapes and a copy of the Holy Week activities. If the eggs aren't already cut out have the children cut them out carefully. Read over the Holy Week activities for each day. Explain that this week we follow Jesus in Jerusalem up to his death and wait for the amazing thing to happen on Easter Sunday. Have the children cut apart each day and glue onto an egg shape. If they want they can use the markers to decorate their eggs with. Encourage the children to do each day's activities with their families as they walk with them through Holy Week with Jesus.

**Idea #2: Palm Cross Picture**

*As a way of remembering the journey that Jesus makes during Holy Week have the children make this palm cross picture for their families.*

*Materials needed:* palm branch shape at end of lesson, green construction paper, brown tissue paper or construction paper, glue sticks, scissors, markers

*Instructions:* Using the palm branch shape at the end of the lesson as a guide make large palm branch shapes on the construction paper. Make one for each child. For younger children cut out the palm branch and let older children do this themselves. Tear up the brown tissue paper or construction paper into small pieces. Explain to the children that from Palm Sunday Jesus goes on a journey to the cross. As a way to remember that have the children draw a cross on their palm branches with a marker. Then outline that with the glue stick and then glue down the pieces of brown tissue paper or construction paper onto the cross shape. When they are done they should have a brown cross in the middle of their palm branch. Invite the children to place their palm branches up somewhere at home where they can remember the journey that Jesus made this week in Jerusalem and where it led him.

### **Idea #3: Wall of Faith – Palm Cross Praise**

*This is an ongoing activity that the children can do all together throughout the season. This is the last week they will put up a new symbol onto their wall.*

*Materials needed:* green construction paper, palm cross shape at the end of the lesson, scissors, markers, sticky tack or masking tape

*Instructions:* Make enough copies of the palm cross shape so that each child will have one. Give each child a copy of the palm cross and a piece of green construction paper. Have them cut out the shape on the dark border. Then invite them to colour in the palm cross before gluing the shape onto the construction paper. As they are colouring invite the children to think about a way to praise God for all the good ways that God acts in the world and their lives. Ask the children to write or draw their praise on the construction paper around the palm cross. When they are done post them up on the wall of faith with the sticky tack or masking tape. Take a moment with the children to look at their completed wall. Comment that they have come on quite a journey through Lent together.

### **Closing:**

Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candle. Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

**You hear our voice, loving God at all times,**

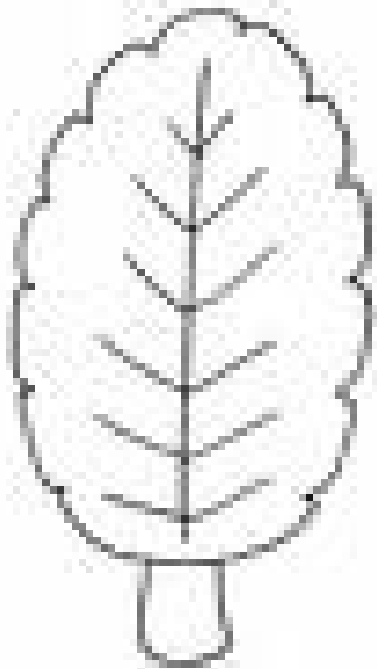
**You walk with us, Jesus at all times,**

**You urge us on, Holy Spirit at all times,**

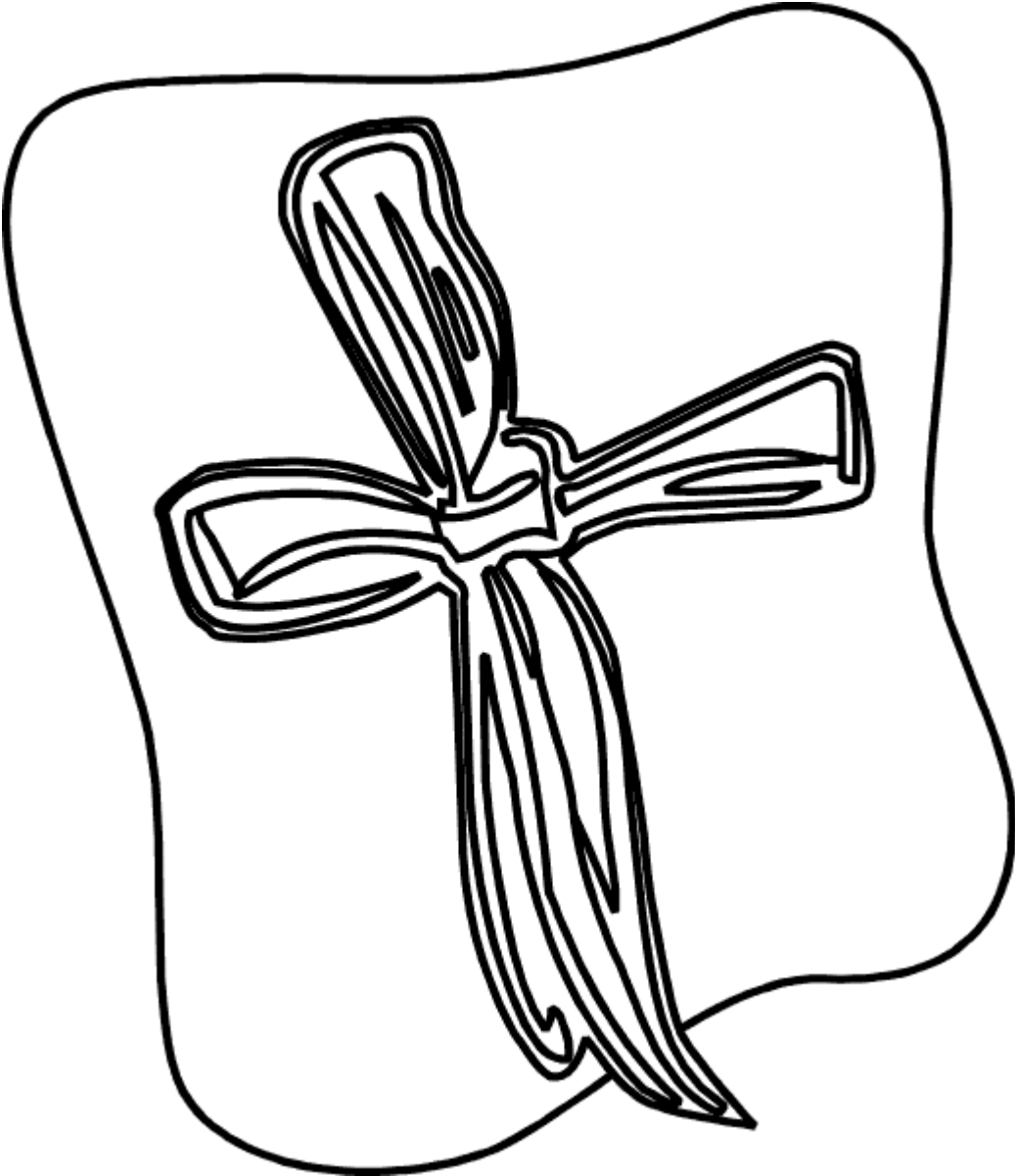
**Loving Presence surround and keep us.**

**Amen.**

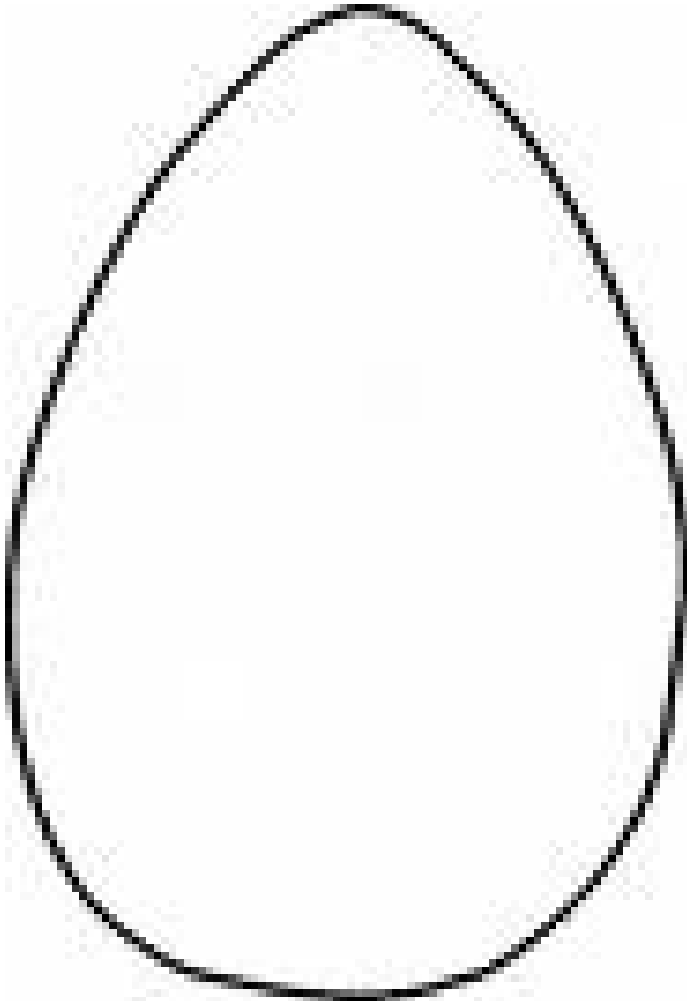
### **Palm Branch**



Palm Cross



Easter Egg Shape



## Holy Week Activities

<p><b>Monday in Holy Week</b> Read Mark 11: 25. Have everyone think for a moment about someone that they need to forgive. Say the Lord's Prayer together.</p>	<p><b>Tuesday in Holy Week</b> Read John 12: 20-26. How do we see Jesus? Where do we find Jesus? How do we follow Jesus? Take time together to reflect on the questions.</p>
<p><b>Wednesday in Holy Week</b> Read John 12: 35-36. Light a candle and look at the light that it reflects in the room. How do we reflect the light of God in our lives? Bless each other by saying, "Be the light of God in the world."</p>	<p><b>Maundy Thursday</b> Read John 13: 34-35 Take a moment to think together about how we love one another the way Jesus has loved us. Is there someone in your family, community, church that you need to love better? Hold that person in your heart over the next few days.</p>
<p><b>Good Friday</b> Go to church together as a family. Remember together how Jesus gave himself freely and went to his death. Have some quiet time together to remember the events of the day.</p>	<p><b>Holy Saturday</b> This is the day that Jesus was at rest. Take time today to make Easter Eggs together to get ready for the big celebration coming with Easter morning.</p>

***Please note for next Sunday as it is Easter there will only be a story and no activities. This is to allow people with children to attend church on this most holy of our festivals with their families. The story will be available for those families who, for some reason, are unable to get to church that day.***