

PALM SUNDAY (YEAR A)

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

PALM CROSSES

THINKING ABOUT SUNDAY'S THEME

Reflecting on the Gospel

Jesus' entry into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-11)

The events of Holy Week begin with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Each of the three synoptic gospels tells the story in a slightly different way, but the key idea remains the same. Drawing on imagery from the Old Testament, the gospel writers make it plain that Jesus is entering Jerusalem as Messiah. Many local churches now capture the Palm Sunday theme by arranging a procession through the streets. Some of these processions even include a donkey.

Our image to stimulate reflection on this passage is *palm crosses*.

Extract from Gospel passage (Matthew 21: 6-9)

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them;
they brought the donkey and the colt,
and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them.
A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road,
and others cut branches from the trees
and spread them on the road.
The crowds that went ahead of him
and that followed were shouting,
'Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

Gospel prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you rode into Jerusalem with shouts of praise.
Inspire us now to shout your praises.
Hosanna to the Son of David.
Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord;
for you are our Saviour,
now and always.
Amen

PALM SUNDAY (YEAR A)

PREPARING AT HOME WITH ALL AGES

Thinking and talking

Reflect on Matthew's account of Jesus entering into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday

- why was Jesus on his way to Jerusalem?
- what is the significance of the donkey?
- why are people spreading their cloaks on the road?
- why are people cutting branches from the trees?
- what is the significance of shouting 'Hosanna to the Son of David'?
- what does this narrative say for today?

Exploring online

- google terms like: Palm Sunday; Palm Sunday procession; Palm Sunday crosses; making palm crosses; Hosanna
- discover how Palm Sunday is kept in different churches
- discover how Palm Sunday is kept in different countries
- discover how to make palm crosses

Using your Bible

Explore how the other two synoptic Gospels related the Palm Sunday narrative:

- Mark 11: 1-10
- Luke 19: 29-38

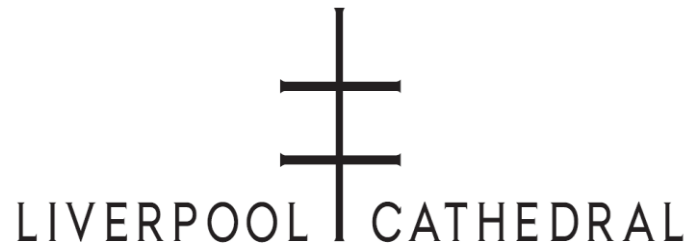
Explore key images in the Old testament that are reflected in the Palm Sunday narrative:

- Zechariah 9: 9
- 2 Kings 9: 13
- Psalm 118: 25-26

Creating and making

- make palm crosses to place around your home and in your windows
- make a collage of a Palm Sunday procession
- create a reflection, a poem, or a prayer on the Palm Sunday theme

PALM SUNDAY (YEAR A)



EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

Our invitation then is for you to share your reflections, prayers and photos of your creative work with the Cathedral by emailing them to Nelson.Pike@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales and the St Christopher's College Trust.



The scripture quotations contained in these materials are taken from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Anglicised Edition, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, and is used with permission. All rights reserved.

Copyright © Leslie J. Francis, 2020
Canon Theologian Liverpool Cathedral
with sponsorship and support from
St Christopher's College Trust
St Mary's Centre, Wales