

# Palm Sunday

**Palm Sunday**, often referred to as "Passion Sunday," marks the beginning of Holy Week, which concludes on Easter Sunday. On Palm Sunday we celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem, the week before his death and resurrection. The Bible reveals that when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the crowds greeted him by waving palm branches and covering his path with palm branches. Immediately following this great time of celebration in the ministry of Jesus, he begins his journey to the cross.

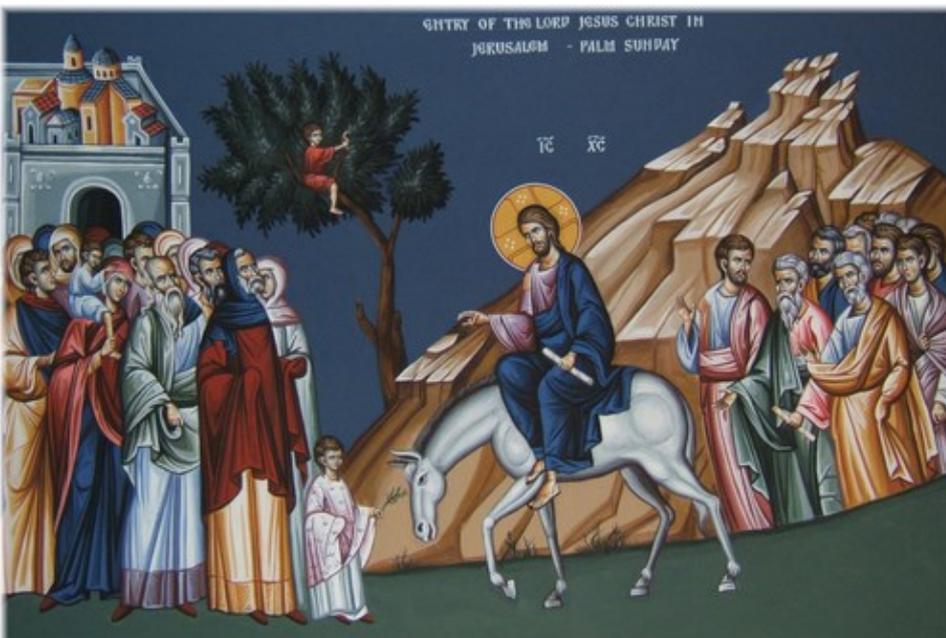
The biblical account of Palm Sunday can be found in Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44; and John 12:12-19.

For us as followers of Christ the three great days of Holy Week are the most important celebrations of the year. On Holy Thursday, we remember the Last Supper and the gift of the Priesthood, on Good Friday we recall the terrible suffering of Jesus and his Crucifixion, on Holy Saturday night and Easter Sunday we celebrate the great event of the Resurrection and Christ's victory over death and sin.

There is a core similarity between the four accounts of the death of Jesus in the New Testament. However, they differ in sequence and in details, allowing various understandings of the cross to unfold. Because the death of Jesus was and is such a deeply mysterious and indeed perplexing event, different dimensions are explored and laid bare by different New Testament writers. None is more stark than Mark's Gospel: all who knew Jesus have failed him; his only "helper" is a complete outsider, Simon, the unknown passer-by.

The injustice and brutality of the Passion of Jesus make it a difficult story to read as good news. Yet in the midst of that cruelty the courageous, faithful and self-sacrificing love that Jesus shows for us shines through.

Recall moments when the account of the passion has moved you in a special way.  
How have you experienced blessing through it?



## Prayer

O Lord, we tell again of the death of your Messiah, Jesus the Christ. In his story we see the story of your love as you reach out to us in the darkness of tragic death and tremendous suffering. Touch our hearts again with your compassionate love that we may be return to you with all our hearts.

*Hosanna!*