

Children's Church at Home 28 March 2021

John 12:12-16 Palm Sunday, Jesus' triumphal entry

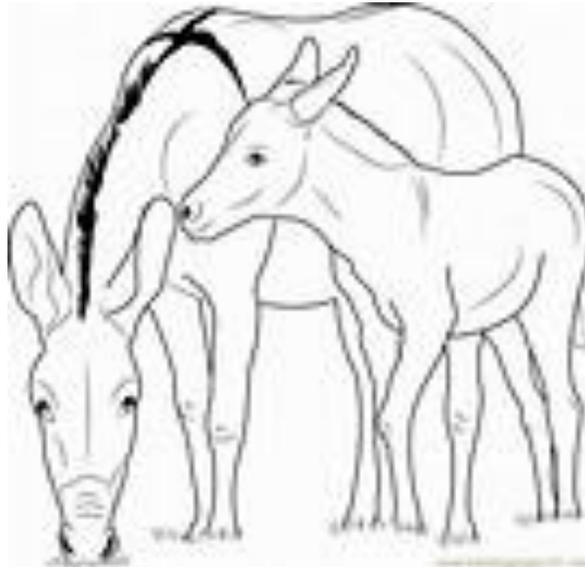
**Craft:** paper, (preferably green), an elastic band, pens, scissors.

**First:** What is this? Here's the clue: Two words, first word 4 letters, second word 6 letters. The front of your hand, the day before Monday, the beginning of Easter week.

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How do you think a king should travel? In a carriage? By supersonic jet? By barge? The Queen definitely rides in a carriage sometimes and she has been in a barge on the Thames too.

Did you know that the place Jesus lived was ruled by the Romans? It was part of the Roman Empire. The Jewish people didn't like that much.



**The story:** In today's story, Jesus and his friends are walking towards Jerusalem when Jesus stops. 'You'll find a young donkey in the village over there' says Jesus. 'Tell the owner that your master needs it and bring it here.'

Off they go and come back with the donkey. Jesus gets on and off they go again.

Now word has got round that Jesus is coming. People have heard about all the wonderful things he's done, the miracles, the way he's helped people and talked about God. They think he's a prophet, (they don't know he's the son of God yet!) and they rush out to see him. When they see him coming, riding on a donkey, some of them remember a bit from the scriptures (what we call the old testament in the Bible). It says that the conquering king will come riding on a donkey. (You can find this in Zechariah, chapter 9 verse 9.)



'Wow! Maybe this prophet will lead the revolution and we can finally be rid of the Romans!' shouts someone. 'Let's welcome him properly, like a conquering hero,' yells someone else. They rush to cut branches off the palm trees and throw their cloaks down on the ground for the donkey to walk on. Like the red carpet at the Oscars!

And they cheer and cheer! Here's what they shout: (Hosanna is a bit like hooray!)

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna to the son of David!

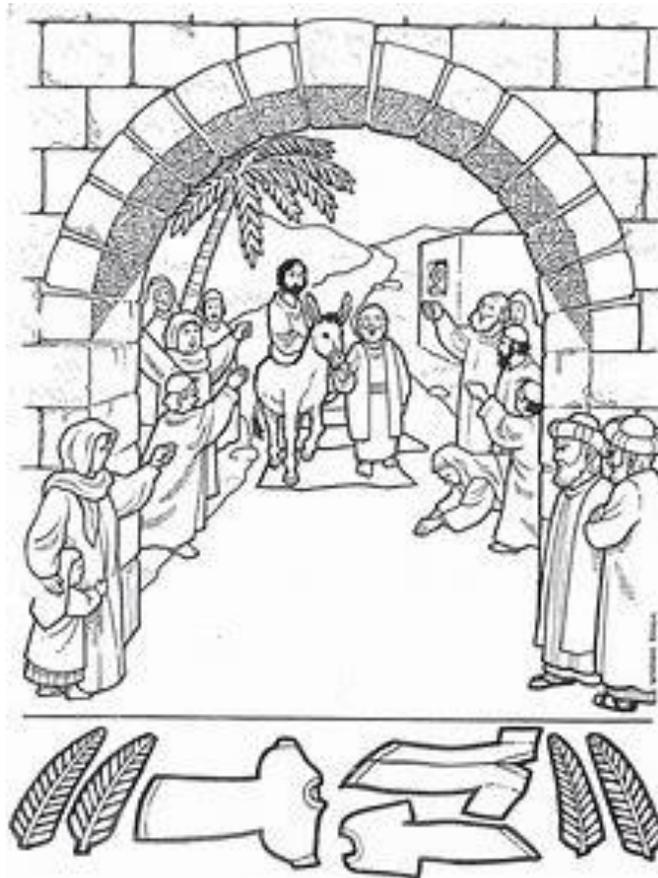
Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven!

Look your king is coming to you, humble, riding on a donkey.

This is the prophet Jesus!



Some people complain and tell Jesus to make the crowd be quiet. And Jesus says, 'If these people were silent, the stones would cry out.'

**Quiz:** Circle the correct answer:

Jesus is going to	Jersey?	Jerusalem?	Jericho?
He travels by ..	Boat?	In a carriage?	On a donkey?
People ..	Welcome him with shouts of joy?	Crowd round him with requests for help?	Ask him to be quiet?
People ...	Stand silently as he goes past?	Cut brambles to clear the way?	Cut palm leaves and throw their cloaks on the ground?
Jesus says that if the people were quiet ...	The birds would sing?	The stones would shout?	The palm trees would dance?

Because he knows that this is all part of God's plan. He has to be welcomed into Jerusalem with a lot of joyful noise and celebrating. Next week we'll find out what happens next.

The Bible says that Jesus will come again, not on a donkey this time, but in clouds of glory. Can you imagine that? But we don't know when, so we need to be ready! And that's for another day!

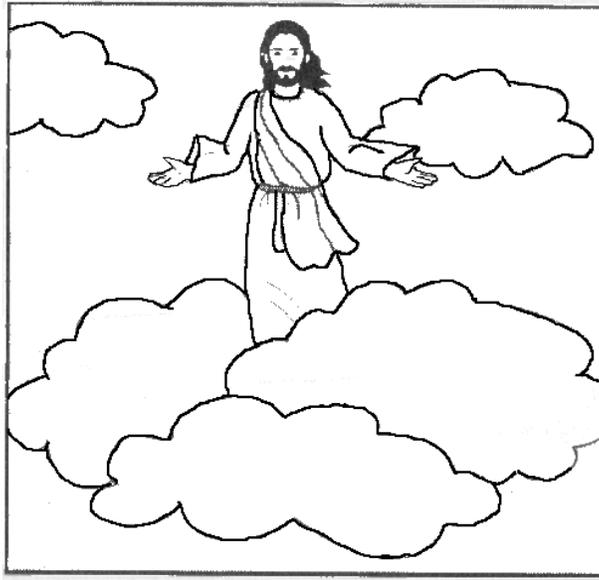
**Video:** <https://youtu.be/ITmbTuutBgg>

or this BBC bitesize [The riddle of Palm Sunday - KS1 Religious Education - BBC Bitesize](#)

**Craft:** make a palm tree. Sorry, it won't be big enough to climb.

Fold your paper in half and open it out again. Now write the things the crowd shouted on one half of the paper. You could cut out the words from this sheet if you prefer. Carefully cut strips. Now turn the paper over and colour the other side brown like a tree trunk. Roll the paper up and hold it closed with the elastic band.

Carefully pull the 'leaves' out and curve them down like the leaves of a palm tree. Now you can read out what the people shouted!



Thanks to: <http://www.iscog.org/cc/coloring/>  
for this coloring page

**Activity:** Make a simnel cake ready for Easter. Here is Mary Berry's recipe. It's a traditional cake for Easter and the eleven balls on the top represent the 11 disciples, minus Judas Iscariot.

[Mary Berry's simnel cake recipe - BBC Food](#)

**Prayer:** Friend Jesus, The people who welcomed Jesus didn't know what God had planned for you, and we often don't understand what God has planned for us. Help us to trust God: everything will be fine and he will look after us. (tell Jesus what you're feeling a bit worried or confused about at the moment.) Please bless us and keep us all safe and happy. Amen.

**The Grace:** May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore. Amen.