

Week 27

Jesus Rides into Jerusalem

Jesus went to Jerusalem with His disciples. He knew what He had to do next. Soon, He would suffer, die, and rise again from the dead for you and for me.

Jesus rode to the city on a young donkey, a sign of coming in peace. The people were so excited to see Him. (*) They spread their coats on the road. They cut palm tree branches and spread them on the road. They cheered, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" *Hosanna* means "Save now."

Some leaders who heard the cheers were very unhappy. They did not believe Jesus was the Son of God. They wanted Jesus to tell the people to stop saying those things. But Jesus did not stop the cheering people. He really is the one who came from God. Jesus is the Savior God promised.

When Jesus got to Jerusalem, He went to the big temple to be in His Father's house. We, too, go to God's house when we go to church to hear God's Word and to worship Him! Hosanna! Hallelujah!

Fold the family letter back so your child can focus on the big picture as you tell the Bible story. At the point in the story indicated by an asterisk (), fold the picture strip forward, overlapping part of the big picture. Talk about what has changed in the picture as you continue the story.*

Think about It

The words of Matthew 21:1-11 show that the people welcomed Jesus as a king. The problem was that they wanted a king on earth, but Jesus is a heavenly King. Jesus knowingly came to Jerusalem to complete God's plan of salvation—for you and me! Join the celebration for our heavenly King!

Bible Words

Hosanna
in the highest!
Matthew 21:9





Dear Family,

Everyone loves a parade, or so it is said. In this Bible story, Jesus came into Jerusalem in a triumphal parade. He came to finish the work of salvation. He came to suffer and die on the cross. As He rode by on a young donkey, people noticed and rejoiced. They laid out a carpet of palms and cloaks. They called to Him as a king. They shouted “Hosanna!” Later that same week, Jesus would fulfill their “hosanna” request. He would save them, perhaps not in the way they expected, but through His suffering, death, and resurrection. As their heavenly King, Jesus would save forever.

In the Church, we celebrate Palm Sunday the week before Easter. That Sunday, now also called Sunday of the Passion, often includes a time for people, especially children, to lift up palm branches and say “Hosanna!”

At home, take time for a family parade. Celebrate who Jesus is—your Savior and King. Wave streamers or scarves. Shout “Hosanna!” Lift up palm branches as you read again the Bible story on pages 389–391 in *The Story Bible*, available from Concordia Publishing House (CPH). This week, pray this new prayer with waving hands before you eat.

“Hosanna, Lord, Hosanna,” the
children said one day.
Hosanna, Lord, Hosanna! Lord, bless
our food today. Amen.