

## Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way

April 5, 2020

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 26:14-27:66



### Palm Sunday

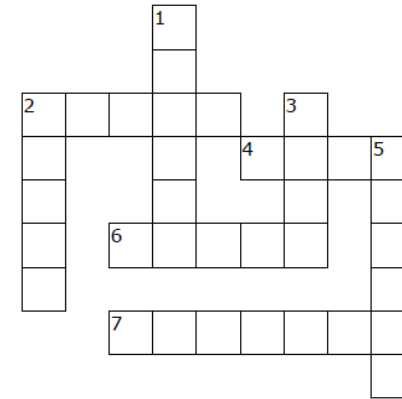
Good morning friends! Have you ever been to a parade? What was your favorite part? Mine is watching all of the bands, especially the high step bands that dance while they play. There was a parade that took place in the city of Jerusalem about 2000 years ago.

Jesus and his followers were traveling to the city of Jerusalem. The city was going to have a big celebration called Passover that would last for a whole week. Well, as they were traveling, they came to a place called the Mount of Olives. They stopped there and Jesus gave his disciples some special instructions. "Go into that village over there," he told them. "As you enter it, you will see a young donkey tied there that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks, 'Why are you untying that donkey?' just say, 'The Lord needs it.'" So, the disciples went and found the young donkey, just as Jesus had told them they would. And sure enough, as they were untying it, the owner asked them, "Why are you untying that donkey?" They simply answered, "The Lord needs it." The disciples took the young donkey to Jesus and they put coats on its back so that Jesus would have a nice, soft seat as he rode it into town. Word spread quickly through the town that Jesus was coming. He had become quite famous because people had heard about his healing the sick and even raising the dead. As Jesus entered the town, a large crowd had gathered. People began to throw their coats on the road in front of Jesus. They cut branches from the palm trees and waved them and they began to shout, "Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord." But as exciting as all this was, the people really did not know who Jesus was. They thought he was going to set up an earthly kingdom and that he would do great things for them here on earth. They did not understand that his kingdom was in heaven.

The Good News today is that Jesus is King. He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Today we are here to praise him and we shout, "Hosanna!" Do you know what that word means? It means "Save now!" That is why we shout hosanna, because Jesus saves -- Jesus alone.

Loving God, you sent your son Jesus to save us and today we wave the palm branches we've made in remembrance. Help us to always remember how much Jesus loves us and to share that love with the rest of the world. Amen.

## Crossword Puzzle



### ACROSS

2. A loose outer garment without sleeves worn instead of a coat
4. A pathway for vehicles, persons, and animals
6. To speak with a very loud voice
7. A community which is smaller than a town, usually in the countryside

### DOWN

1. The part of a tree that grows out from the main trunk and has leaves
2. A large group of people who have gathered together
3. A young male horse (or donkey)
5. An animal like a small horse with long ears

BRANCH	COLT	ROAD	CLOAK
SHOUT	VILLAGE	DONKEY	CROWD

**Activity:** Print the template for a palm frond. Cut out several, and color them. Tape them to your front door to remind your neighbors that we are celebrating Holy Week.

**Discussion Question:** I love a good parade! It's so exciting to see all of the floats and especially the marching bands! Today, we celebrate a parade that happened 2020 years ago and give thanks that Jesus came to us. In what ways can we celebrate Jesus every day?

**Family Table Prayer for April:** God of Spring and all things new Thank you for the morning dew For streams and rivers and the earth, Water of new life, baptism, our rebirth. Amen

**April Memory Verse:** 2 Corinthians 5:17 Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new.

## Paper Palm Leaf

Cut this template along the dotted line.

Fold a piece of green construction paper in half and paper clip the template so the dotted line is along the fold.

Cut through the template and both layers of construction paper along the black lines.

Discard the template (unless you want to make more leaves).

Unfold the construction paper to see your finished palm leaf.

Optional: Tape a green pipe cleaner or thin rolled tube of construction paper to the center as a stem.

