



The Triumphant Entry

By Debbie Trafton O'Neal
and Brenda Carpenter

Children's Sermon

You will need to have a palm branch—one made out of paper, or a picture of one for the children to see. (Hold up the palm branch or a picture for the children to see.)



Does anyone know what this is? It looks like a giant leaf to me. Some of you might even have one of these in your front yard or have seen one on vacation. It is a palm branch. Our Bible lesson today is about a very special day when people used these for a very important person.

When Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem on a donkey, the people were so excited to see Him that they lined the city streets waving palm branches. That's right, they found the biggest, fattest palm branches and waved them in the air.

Does anyone know why they used palm branches and not something else? Waving a palm branch as a King entered the city showed honor and triumph.

There was a big parade with people waving their branches and shouting, "Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna to the King." Some even laid their coats down on the ground to make the ground soft for the young donkey to walk on.



Whenever you see or think of a palm branch, you can think of Jesus and how we need to celebrate who He is on this special day and everyday.

To learn more about this event in the Bible, read Matthew 21:1-11 together.



Song: Palm Sunday Celebration

Play and sing the song to introduce the Children's Sermon

Palm Sunday Celebration

(Word and Music by Mary Rice Hopkins)

Here I am a trottin'
Down the road I go
The people they are stoppin'
Just to say hello (Hello!)

For I am carrying
The One who brings good news
C'mon and sing with me
This is what you do

CHORUS

With a hee, hee, haw and a hee, hee, haw
Here a hee, there a haw, everywhere a hee haw
A hee, hee, haw, a hee, hee, haw
Here a hee, there a haw, everywhere a hee haw

Come and wave your branches
He is the King of Kings
Yet He is a riding
Love is what He brings.

For I am carrying
The One who brings good news
I am just a donkey
But I know just what to do

Palm Sunday is the day
So everybody wave
Sing loud Hosannas
For Jesus saves

I am carrying
The One who brings good news
If you sing with me
Then I'll tell you what you do

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Palm Branch Craft

A fun craft to make together is a palm branch. You can use this to demonstrate how the people waved it in the air.



You Will Need:

- Paper towel tube
- Green Construction Paper (pre-cut to fit tube)
- Green construction paper 12X24
- Glue and Scissors

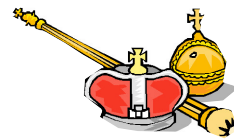
- Start by gluing the precut paper to the tube. This is going to be the base or handle for your palm branch. (Set aside to dry)
- Help cut 1 inch strips down the green construction paper. Leave 2-3 inches at the bottom so the pieces will stay together.
- Glue the solid part of the paper 2-3 inches at the top of the tube.

Join the Parade

Reenact the parade that welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday. Use the palms you have made, branches cut from ferns, or trees in your yard. You might also want to wave paper streamers.

As you march in your parade, say together, "Hosanna, Hosanna, our happy voices sing! Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna to Jesus our King!" Play and sing Palm Sunday Celebration as they wave their palm branches.

Snack Fit for a King



Jesus is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. Let's prepare a feast in His honor.

Provide Different Items for a Yummy Snack:

- Pre-cut lunch meats
- Different cheeses
- Grapes
- Crackers
- Juice

If the weather permits, take a blanket outside and have a snack fit for a King. If the weather is not "picnic" weather, spread your blanket inside and enjoy your snack together.



Closing Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, we praise You and lift You high. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna to the King. Thank you for sending Jesus so we can know You more. We want to give You all the praise and glory.

In Jesus' Name, Amen

Resources

Mary's songs/CD's

Sing Through the Year--Big Steps for Little Feet

Sing through the Year--Easter Rise Up

Come Meet Jesus--Rolled 'Em Away

Hand motions are in Come Meet Jesus Songbook, available on line

Books by Debbie Trafton O'Neal

Easter Books:

NEW! In Fall 2005 ----

J is for Jesus, An Easter Alphabet and Activity Book (Augsburg Fortress)

Family Countdown to Easter (Augsburg Fortress)

Before and After Easter (Augsburg Fortress)

Christmas Books:

New! In Fall 2005 ---

A is for Angel, A Christmas Alphabet and Activity Book (Augsburg Fortress)

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