

## **Palm Sunday**

**Text: Matthew 21:1-11**

### **Main Themes:**

1. Jesus enters Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to begin the Feast of the Passover because He is the true Passover Lamb.
2. His entrance into Jerusalem on a donkey proclaims Jesus to be the humble Messiah and Redeemer of the world who will reign as King by dying for His people.
3. The crowds confess Jesus to be the Lord as they sing “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!”

### **Questions:**

1. What is the city of Jerusalem known for? *It was the capital city of the Jews in which the temple was built. It is sometimes called the City of David or the Holy City. Many of the prophets were persecuted and martyred there.*
2. Why did Jesus send two disciples to a village opposite them to find a donkey and a donkey’s colt? *So that He could ride into Jerusalem to fulfill the Scriptures. See Zechariah 9:9*
3. Who is the “Daughter of Zion”? *All who are waiting for the Redeemer of Israel.*
4. What did Jesus’ riding into Jerusalem in this way confess? *He is the Christ, the King, who will come to save His people from their sins.*
5. What did people in the ancient world do to pay respect to their king? *They called him lord, cried to him for mercy, and laid their garments or palm branches along his path.*
6. What do the disciples confess by laying their clothes upon the donkeys for Jesus to sit upon? *Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.*
7. What do the crowds confess by spreading their garments and palm branches on the road into Jerusalem? *Jesus is their Messiah, the Christ.*
8. When were palm branches used for celebration in the Old Testament? *The Feast of Tabernacles, which celebrated the goodness of the Lord and His deliverance of Israel from Egypt when He “tabernacle among them” as they dwelt in tents in the wilderness.*
9. What is this day called in the church year? *Palm Sunday or the Sunday of the Passion*
10. What does this day begin? *Holy Week*
11. What happens on Friday of Holy Week? *Jesus is crucified, showing Himself to be the Passover Lamb and King of the Jews.*
12. What did the crowds cry out as Jesus rode into Jerusalem? *“Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest.”*

13. Where did this song come from? *Psalm 118:25-26. They would pray this psalm during the Passover.*
14. When do we sing this song in the Liturgy of the Church? *In the Divine Service during the liturgy of Holy Communion. It signifies that the "Holy of Holies" is open to us through the New Testament in His blood that is distributed to us in the Holy Communion. As Jesus came into Jerusalem in lowliness to suffer and die upon the cross, so He comes among us in the lowliness of bread and wine to give us His true Body and Blood in the Sacrament of the Altar in the Divine Service for our salvation.*
15. What is this song called? *The Sanctus (Holy)*
16. What does Hosanna mean? *"Lord, save us now!"*
17. What are they confessing by calling Jesus the "Son of David"? *He is the Messiah, the Christ, their King.*
18. What was the reaction of the entire city of Jerusalem to Jesus' Triumphal Entry? *Everyone was moved to ask, "Who is this?"*
19. How did the crowd of believers respond to this question? *They confessed, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee."*
20. Did everyone believe in Jesus on Palm Sunday? *No, but the entire population was aware of Jesus and recognized that thousands of people were following Him and singing His praises.*

*Prayer for the Bible Text: Most merciful God, as the people of Jerusalem, with palms in their hands, gather to greet Your dearly beloved Son when He came into His Holy City, grant that we may ever hail Him as our King and, when He comes again, may go forth to meet Him with trusting and steadfast hearts and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

### **Jesus Celebrates the Passover**

**Text: Matthew 26:17-19, 26-3**

#### **Main Themes:**

1. What happened in the Old Testament Passover? *The lamb was slaughtered, its blood was smeared on the doorposts and lintels of the homes of the children of Israel, and the people roasted the lamb and ate it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. By the blood of the Passover lamb, the Lord redeemed Israel from slavery in Egypt.*
2. What did the children of Israel do each year to celebrate the Passover? *They slaughtered, roasted, and ate the lamb with unleavened bread and grape wine.*
3. Why does Jesus tell His disciples that the Passover is two days away and that the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified? *He is the true Passover Lamb who was delivered up to death to redeem us from sin, death, and the power of the devil.*
4. Why is Jesus careful to instruct His disciples about the Passover? *The Old Testament Passover would be fulfilled in the shedding of Jesus' blood upon the cross and in the Sacrament of the Altar by which we*

*eat of His Body and drink of His Blood for the forgiveness of sins. All that happened in Jesus' suffering and death unfolded according to the Scriptures.*

5. What did Jesus do as they were eating the Passover? *He instituted the Lord's Supper. He took the unleavened bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave to them says, "Take, eat; this is My body."*
6. What is the cup that Jesus took from the Passover meal called? *The cup of blessing. See I Corinthians 10:16*
7. Why is it called the "cup of blessing"? *The blessing of the Lord comes to us through this cup.*
8. What did Jesus say about the contents of "the cup of blessing"? *"Drink of it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."*
9. What does "shed for man" mean? *The blood of the one covers the sins of many. Though it is the blood of only one man, since it is the blood of Christ it covers the sins of all.*
10. What is a covenant or testament? *A promise from the Lord made in blood.*
11. Why is this called "My blood of the new testament"? *It is Jesus' true blood and because the shedding of His blood accomplishes what the sacrifices of the Old Covenant could not accomplish; forgiveness of sins. It is called "new" because it completely fulfills the demands of the "old" covenant. Jesus died once and for, and His blood is the source of eternal salvation.*
12. What does Jesus promise in the shedding of His blood? *The forgiveness of sins.*
13. What does the Catechism say is the benefit of eating and drinking Christ's body and blood? *"These words, 'Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,' show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.*
14. When would Jesus drink of the fruit of the vine with them again? *On that day when He would drink it new with them in His Father's kingdom. After Jesus established the Father's kingdom in His death and resurrection, He ate and drank with the disciples during the forty days between His resurrection and ascension.*

*Prayer:*

*O Lord Jesus, we give thanks to You that on the night You were betrayed You instituted the Lord's Supper from the Old Testament Passover and showed Yourself to be the true Passover Lamb. You redeemed us from slavery to sin, death, and the power of the devil through Your body and blood that was given and shed for our forgiveness upon the cross. Prepare us faithful to eat and to drink of Your body and blood in the Lord's Supper, that we might receive every blessing of salvation that You won for us in Your suffering and death upon the cross. In your holy name we pray. Amen.*