

*This week our opening Gospel tells the story of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Read Matthew 21:1-11 with the children, emphasizing the importance of the words of praise, "Hosanna in the highest," that we pray each week at Mass. In spite of the difficulties and sadness surrounding that Holy Week, the people gave praise to God.*

### *Matthew 21:1-11*

Jesus and his disciples were on their way to Jerusalem to take part in a big celebration called Passover. Jesus asked his disciples to go to the nearest town to get a young donkey. He told them that they would find it tied at the entrance to the city. He asked them to untie the little donkey and bring it to him. He told them, If anyone asks why you are untying it, just tell them that the Lord needs it.

And that is exactly what his disciples did. They went and found the young donkey just where Jesus told them it would be and brought it to Jesus. The disciples took off their coats and put them on the donkey for Jesus to sit on. Jesus rode the little donkey into Jerusalem. As Jesus rode the little donkey up the hill to Jerusalem, many people gathered around to see Jesus and welcome him.

They were very excited to see Jesus, and shouted praises to him. They loved Jesus very much. To show their love for Jesus, they spread their coats on the road. Other people cut palm branches from the trees and spread them on the road. They did this to welcome Jesus and to show everyone how important he was to them. They treated him like a king. The people started following him and the little donkey into town.

Other people heard all the singing and noise from far away and ran out to see what was happening. The people were asking, Who is that riding the donkey? The people parading behind him and in front of him told them that it was Jesus the prophet from Nazareth. Pretty soon a very large crowd was there to meet Jesus and welcome him. It was like a big parade because so many people were gathering all around Jesus. Some people waved palm branches, saying, Hosanna, Hosanna. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna means Save, now. Even the children were singing praises to Jesus.

(Give the children a chance to say it. Let's all say Hosanna together.)

Jesus was very glad to hear the people singing songs, and shouting praises to him. He is also very happy when he hears you praising and singing songs to him.

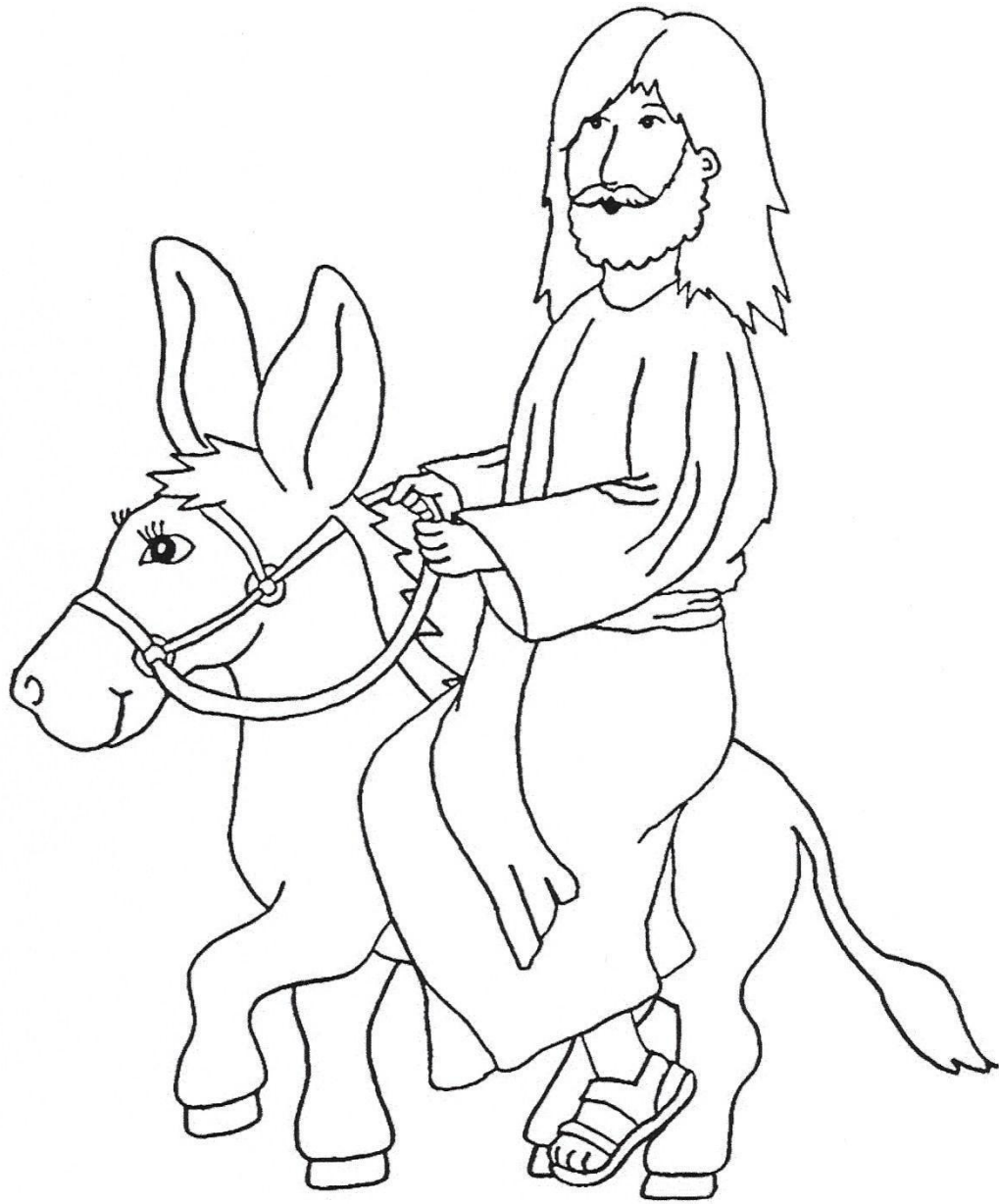
## Prayer

Father, We thank you for sending Jesus. Help us to always remember how great he is-that he is our king and Savior.

# Activities



*Hosanna in the Highest!*



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