Palm Sunday
Sunday Service Children's Story

Materials:

- Pictures of Jesus
- A Palm for each child

Good morning and welcome and we welcome all the families on the broadcast. Happy Palm Sunday. Today, we celebrate Jesus Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. It marks the beginning of Holy Week and falls each year on the Sunday before Easter Sunday. Let's hear our story now.

The King Is Coming

The dusty roads leading into Jerusalem were filled with people, young and old, making the trip to celebrate to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover.

Jonathan tugged on one side of his father's cloak, while his younger sister Sarah pulled on the other, only a little lower. "Father, are we there yet?" Jonathan asked.

"My feet hurt," Sarah said.

Mother interrupted, "Let's stop here under this tree and rest for a while. We have time." The family found the perfect spot. Mother set the water and food on the blanket.

They all took off their sandals and rubbed their feet in the cool grass. "Do we have to walk much farther?" asked Sarah.

Father replied, "You know, Jesus walked everywhere. Even as a child, he would have walked from Nazareth to Jerusalem for the feasts, a distance of

approximately 120 miles one way. Some people estimate that Jesus has walked at least 15,000 miles in his lifetime."

"There sure are a lot of people walking today," said Jonathan. Do we even know that he's really coming?"

Father said, "We've been told that Jesus would return to Jerusalem during Passover this year to fulfill the prophecy."

"What's a prophecy?" Jonathan asked.

"It's a prediction of something to come. About 500 years ago, the prophet Zechariah prophesized saying, "… thy King cometh unto thee: he *is* just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon a donkey, and upon a colt the foal of a donkey."

"A King?" asked an astonished Sarah. "I get to see a King?"

Mother answered, "Yes, Jesus is our King. Now, let's collect some palm branches. To honor our Lord and Savior, we will wave them as he enters."

With the help of their father, Jonathan and Sarah cut down the largest branches they could handle. Suddenly this trip didn't seem so long anymore. Jonathan felt strong and important carrying an armful of palms. Sarah enjoyed collecting beautiful flowers to toss on Jesus' path. They continued on their journey with a joyful heart and a spring in their step.

While all were gathering for Passover, Jesus and his disciples were also making their way to Jerusalem. As they approached the outside of the city, Jesus said to two of his disciples, "In the little village of Bethphage, you will find a young donkey tied up. He has never been ridden before, but bring him here for me to ride into Jerusalem. If anyone asks you why you are untying him, just say, 'The Lord hath need of him.' And the owners will let him go."

In all the years that the disciples had been with Jesus, they had only seen him *walk* from place to place. So, you can imagine their surprise when Jesus asked for a colt. However, the two disciples obeyed. And sure enough, when the owner asked them why they were untying his colt, the disciples responded as they had been told, "The Lord hath need of him," and the owner gladly let the men take him.

The disciples brought the colt to Jesus and threw some of their clothes on it to make a saddle for Jesus' triumphal entry into the city.

What pride and joy welled up in the disciples' hearts as they looked upon their Lord. True, he didn't look like a king of the world. He wore no jeweled crown or royal robes. Yet, his face shined forth the kindness, goodness, strength of character and love of a true King. The disciples recognized "the Christ" in the "man Jesus".

Now, the word spread that Jesus was at the entrance of the city. The people began to crowd the road. Sarah, Jonathan and their parents worked their way through the crowd to the front of the path. Sarah placed her flowers on the road as others laid down their coats and palms to make a beautiful carpet to welcome their King.

And then --- Jesus entered.

The people began reciting:

"Hosanna to the son of David! Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

Mother said, "Children, Hosanna is an expression of adoration and praise that we give to our King. "

"But, Mother, he doesn't look like a king," said Sarah, somewhat confused.

Mother replied, “He is not a worldly king, but our spiritual King. Jesus is here to teach us about God’s tremendous love for us and to show us how we too can become the Christ, just like him. That is the most meaningful King one can be.”

Sarah smiled at her mother. Somehow she understood these words because she saw the kindness and love in Jesus’ face. She raised her palm and joined the crowd in saying, “Hosanna to the Son of David.”

(*Give a palm to each child.*)

Let’s welcome Jesus into our hearts as we give our praises. Please, raise your palms and repeat after me:

“Hosanna!” (1x) (Children repeat 1x each statement)

“Praise the Lord!” (1x)

“Hosanna to the son of David!” (1x)

“Praise the Lord I AM THAT I AM, Jesus Christ!” (1x)

“Hosanna in the Highest!” (1x)

Let’s continue with our story now.

Not everyone praised the Lord. Some men called Pharisees (A member of the Jewish sect that followed strict obedience to Jewish traditions and laws) heard the crowd praising God. The Pharisees thought that Jesus was getting too much attention. They said to Jesus, "Teacher, why don't you tell these people to stop praising you as if you were God?"

Jesus replied, "If the people were quiet now, even the stones would cry out!"

Sarah and Jonathan listened as he spoke. “Father, what does Jesus mean?” asked Jonathan.

"He means that the rocks in nature that God created and filled with the Holy Spirit would have recognized the Son of God, the Christ, and would have shouted their praise, even if the people hadn't."

The family watched as Jesus rode out of sight. Then they settled at their campsite. They quietly sat by the fire and pondered their experience with Jesus that day.

Just as Sarah was about to fall asleep, leaning against her father's strong arm, she quietly said, "I love Jesus."

Gently her father replied, "And, Jesus loves you too. He loves us all."

CONCLUSION:

Isn't that a beautiful story of Jesus? Mother Mary tells us that Jesus was like a magnet that drew the people to him because he was full of divine love. He was a magnet of love!

Let's remember to send our love to Jesus each day and to receive the love he sends to us.

Thank you for being here at our story and may your day be filled with the joy of the Christ.

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