

# Palm Sunday (Year A)

Matthew 21:1-11

**'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'**



When Jesus and his disciples drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, "The Lord needs them", and he will send them at once.' This took place to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet, saying, 'Say to the daughter of Sion, "Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden."'

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!' And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, 'Who is this?' And the crowds said, 'This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.'

## Reflection

On Palm Sunday we see something surprising: Jesus enters Jerusalem not on a war horse like a powerful king, but on a humble donkey. The crowds cheer, wave branches and shout "Hosanna!"—yet Jesus knows the road ahead will lead to the cross. It's a moment full of joy, but also courage. The people ask, "Who is this?" and that question still echoes for us today. For us as Vincentians, following the example of St. Vincent de Paul and Blessed Frederic Ozanam, the answer is found not just in our words but in our actions:

Jesus is the one who walks alongside the poor, the forgotten and the struggling. As Holy Week begins, we are invited to walk with Him—through the cheering crowds and the difficult moments—choosing humility, kindness and service. Like those who laid their cloaks on the road, we are asked a simple question: what will we lay down so that Christ's love can pass through our lives and reach someone who needs hope?

## Materials needed

- Cut out leafs - enough for each person
- Pens
- Scissors

## Activity

Give each person a paper leaf, like the branches the crowd waved when Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. On one side of the leaf, invite them to quietly write or draw their prayer intentions for Holy Week. They might think about: Who needs prayer right now? Where is someone hurting or struggling? What part of my life do I want to place in God's hands this week?

When everyone has finished, gather the leaves together to create a shared "Prayer Tree" or pathway on a wall or table. As each person places their leaf, pause for a moment of silence or say together: "Lord, hear our prayer." The display becomes a visible sign that the group is walking through Holy Week together in prayer.

## Call to Action

Choose one intention from your leaf each day this week. Take a minute in the morning or evening to offer it to Jesus in prayer as we journey with Him through Holy Week. Small prayers, offered with love, can bring real hope to the world.



