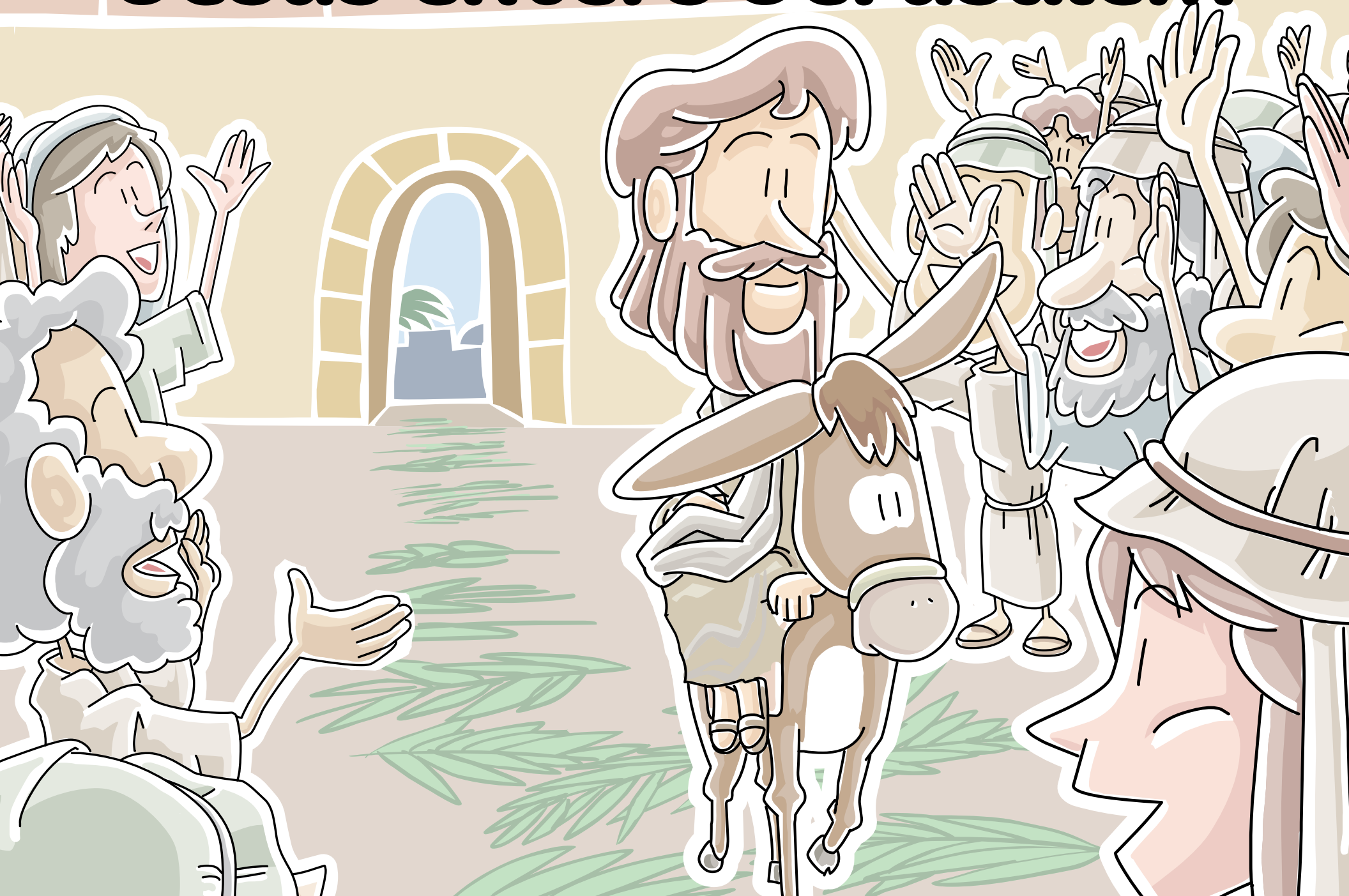


# Jesus enters Jerusalem



## Colour me!



### Luke 19:28-40

Jesus went on towards Jerusalem. As he was getting near Bethphage and Bethany on the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples on ahead. He told them, "Go into the next village, where you will find a young donkey that has never been ridden. Untie the donkey and bring it here. If anyone asks why you are doing that, just say, 'The Lord needs it.'"

They went off and found everything just as Jesus had said. While they were untying the donkey, its owners asked, "Why are you doing that?" They answered, "The Lord needs it." Then they led the donkey to Jesus. They put some of their clothes on its back and helped Jesus get on. And as he rode along, the people spread clothes on the road in front of him. When Jesus was setting off down the Mount of Olives, his large crowd of disciples were happy and praised God because of all the miracles they had seen. They shouted, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory to God." Some Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, make your disciples stop shouting!" But Jesus answered, "If they keep quiet, these stones will start shouting."



## Commentary

The final week of Jesus' life arrives. It is such an important week that each of the Gospels devotes several chapters to the events of the next few days. The news of Jesus' wonderful deeds, teaching and healing people, assures him of a hero's welcome into Jerusalem on the day we now call Palm Sunday.

In the style of a victory procession for a Roman general, people line the streets, waving palms and throwing their clothes on to the road to make a sort of red carpet for a new king. They shout out an extravagant welcome, believing that Jesus has come to rescue them from the Romans. Their words about peace and glory are almost an echo of what the angels sang on the night Jesus was born, but, just as the arrival of the king then as a helpless baby was unexpected, so this arrival takes everyone by surprise too. He chooses to ride a donkey, not a fine white stallion, which would have better suited a great king. Jesus is a different sort of king; even so, he recognizes that this is a day of rejoicing because an amazing rescue is about to happen, one that the crowds cannot begin to imagine.

Bible text taken from Good News Bible. Copyright © American Bible Society, 1992. Reproduced with permission from The Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF). Taken from The Barnabas Family Bible © Martyn Payne and Jane Butcher 2014.

## Questions

- ▶ What makes you think that Jesus had planned ahead for this special day?
- ▶ What was so special about this particular donkey?
- ▶ Why had such large crowds gathered to welcome Jesus?
- ▶ What sort of king was everyone expecting?
- ▶ Why were the Pharisees so upset?



## Visual aid

Find a branch with large leaves to be your 'palms' for this story. You might even be able to find a real palm leaf somewhere, or perhaps a cross made from palm leaves.



## Activity idea

Many Christians receive a palm cross at church on the Sunday when we remember this story. You may already have one. On the internet there are instructions for how to fold paper to make your own palm cross. Once you have something to wave, recreate the sounds of that day, cheering and shouting "Hosanna!", which means "Save us!"



## Prayer idea

Use the palms of your hands to signpost different sorts of prayer.

- Wave the palms of your hands in praise of Jesus.
- Hold up your palms, asking Jesus to be king of your life this day.
- Turn over your palms to let go of all that is bad.
- Press together the palms of your hands and ask God to help you to be ready to say "yes".
- Stretch out your palms to bless each other in the name of the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

## Key verse

Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! (Luke 19:38).

## Old Testament story link

Zechariah 9:9-10: Long ago, the prophet Zechariah wrote about the way in which the special king from God would arrive in Jerusalem.



Colour me!

