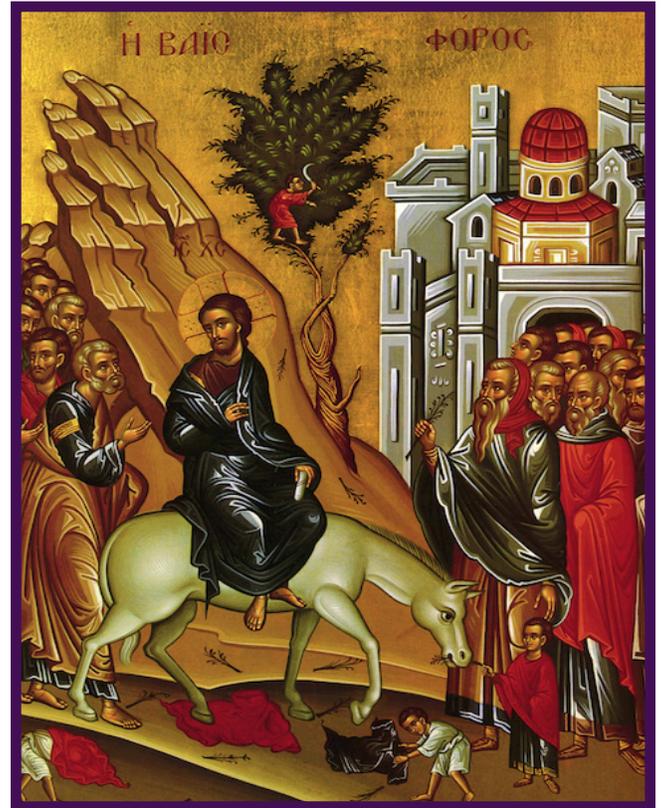


# FAMILY GOSPEL LESSON

John 12:1-18

Palm Sunday begins our journey in Holy Week, our journey to the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As we enter this holiest of weeks, we are not just remembering what happened around 2,000 years ago but we are living it today with Christ. As Christ is processing on Palm Sunday, we are there with the palms that symbolize our victory in Christ. As the Jewish people threw down their cloaks for Jesus, we lay down our whole lives. As they cry out “Hosanna” or “Save us,” we, too, cry out the same. But do we abandon Him when He comes not as a king with worldly prosperity but as a suffering servant, suffering for our sakes and calling us to be at His side?



## For Consideration

- What did Mary do to Jesus? What was her motive?
- How did Judas respond? What was his motive?
- What is happening in this story? What does this Gospel passage mean for our lives?

# TO DO TOGETHER

## Palms of Victory

As the palms symbolize victory, have your family make a victory collage. Get a large sheet of poster paper and draw images of victory on it. You can also use magazines to cut out the images and glue them on. Look for quotes from the Bible but also from popular culture that could symbolize Christ's victory. Be creative and have fun. Discuss the difference between Christian victory and victory in popular culture. When you are done, hang the poster somewhere for all to see during Holy Week.

## Compare Icons

Visit the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America's Lenten website (<http://lent.goarch.org>) to view the Holy Week icons. Look at each one. Have children identify what they see, what they have questions about, and how the icons differ. Point out the icons to your children as you attend services during Holy Week. Help your children find answers to any questions they may have.

## Journey with the Lord

As a family, make a plan for your journey with Christ to the Resurrection. Plan to attend as many services of the Church as possible. Also, consider your prayer life at home and how you will prepare yourself and your children to attend the services. In doing this, everyone can be active participants in the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. If we cannot attend services every evening, we should still read portions of the scripture and the hymns from the Holy Week book. If you do not have a copy, talk to your parish priest about where you can purchase one.

## CLOSING PRAYER

*Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, both now and forever. Amen.*

*With our souls cleansed and in a spirit carrying branches, with faith let us sing Christ's praises like the children, crying with a loud voice to the Master: Blessed are You, O Savior, who has come into the world to save Adam from the ancient curse; and in Your love for mankind You have been pleased to become spiritually the new Adam. O Word, who has ordered all things for our good, glory to You.*

*-From the Matins of Palms Sunday*

## FINAL THOUGHT

Today He returns from Bethany and proceeds of His own free will toward His holy and blessed passion, to consummate the mystery of salvation...He comes without pomp or ostentation...Let us run to accompany Him as He hastens toward His passion, and imitate those who met Him then, not by covering His path with garments, olive branches or palms, but by doing all we can to prostrate ourselves before Him by being humble and trying to live as He would wish...So let us spread before His feet, not garments or olive branches, which delight the eyes for a few hours and then wither, but ourselves, clothed in His grace, or rather, clothes completely in Him. We who have been baptized into Christ must ourselves be the garments that we spread before Him.

-St. Andrew, Bishop of Gortyna, Crete

