

PALM SUNDAY - APRIL 5

Describe an event, holiday, or day you remember or commemorate (have a ceremony for) and why it's meaningful for you to acknowledge/celebrate/honor it every year.

Note: If you are with a group, have each person take a turn sharing.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead 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, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

*"Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."*

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

*"Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"*

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Reflection

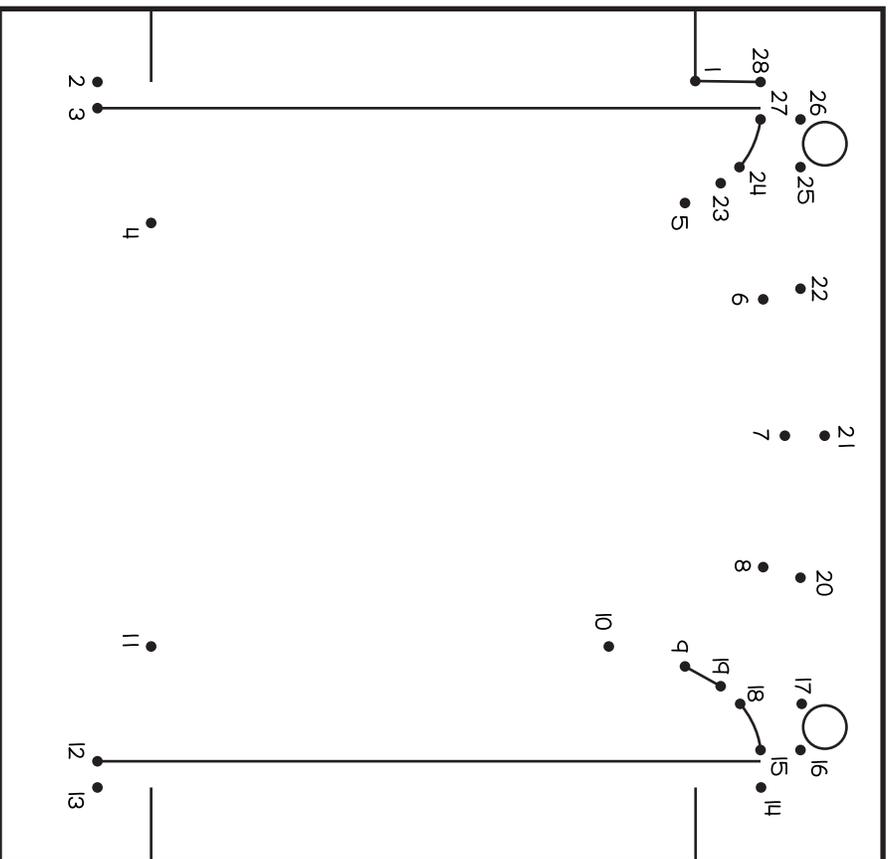
On Palm Sunday, we celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. His teachings have spread, and his following has grown. As he rides into the city, people greet him with cheers and fanfare. There is a sense of joy, relief, and hope among the people. Jesus brings good news for the hurting, sick, impoverished, outcasts, and all who are oppressed by people in power. All along his path, the people wave palm fronds and shout, "Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!" in celebration of his arrival.

This parade is also an act of rebellion. Jesus has already frustrated the people in power. His procession only angers them more. After this day of rejoicing, things change quickly. Jesus' message about God's kingdom uplifting the powerless made people who held lots of power feel threatened. Jesus knows hard things lie ahead during Holy Week, but for his followers, it was a sudden and unsettling shift. In a matter of days, Jesus' world and that of his followers turned completely upside down. He went from being cheered to jeered at by the people, from being supported to betrayed.

CONNECT the DOTS

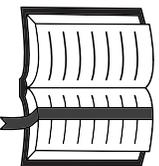
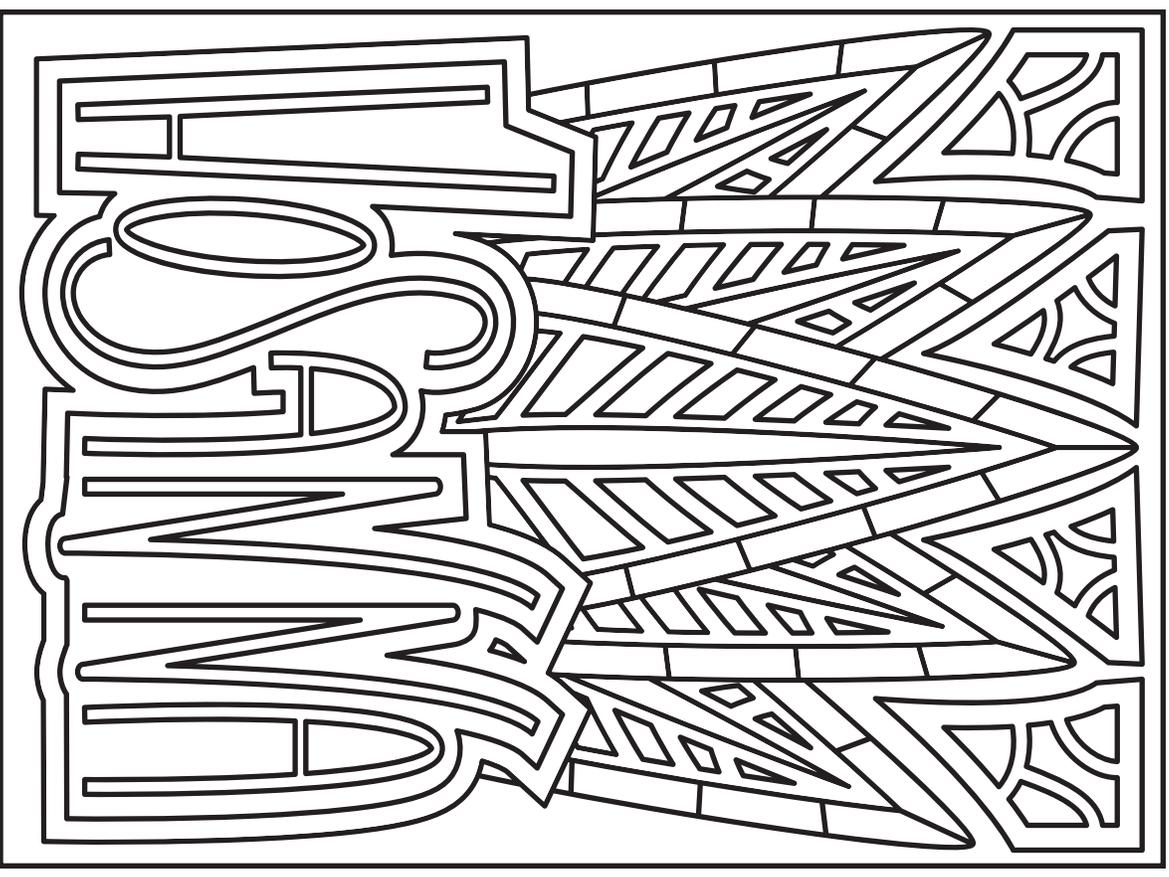
Psalms 118 asks that the “gates of righteousness” be opened so we may enter and give thanks to God.

Connect the dots to form the open gates. Inside, draw what you want to thank God for.



CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29, Matthew 21:1-11.



ILLUSTRATED
MINISTRY

Suggested for use on Psalm Sunday based on the RCL.

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WORD SEARCH

Try to find the words from Matthew 21 in the word search below. Words may go diagonal, up OR down and forward OR backward.

R G H Y N O H I N T U D L K Z
W V W W H C T C N N L W R S N
J E S U S K L U N R G O C C E B
M A C S M W O O M A P R W L M
R Q O H O M F E E T D R C C P L
E T L O C S L F I H B B H I A
T H A U D A P V P L E O V C P
N P S T S G A R E Y S S G S K
E B Z U E D D S O A D O R I D
L C R I H T S R N P Z B Q D R
V E T Q E I X N Z I H X N O O
J N A W N I A D R C V E P S L
U V D G W G J Q L B Q I T O V
D Y E Y O R M T V A C D Y V G
S I D O N K E Y W X N H R T S

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------|
| JERUSALEM | LORD | PALM |
| MOUNT | PROPHET | BRANCH |
| ENTER | DISCIPLES | HOSANNA |
| UNTIE | COLT | BLESSING |
| DONKEY | CLOTHES | SHOUT |
| JESUS | CROWD | DAVID |



DRAW IT

Imagine you are with the crowds as Jesus rides into town on a donkey. What does Jesus look like? What would you want to shout as you praise Jesus and your love for him?

Into your spacious

heart

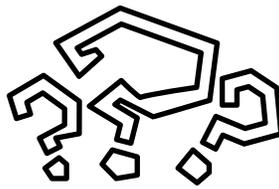
AND LOVING HANDS

dear God

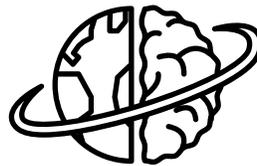
I place



my fears,



my "what ifs,"



my spinning world and mind

Comfort me with the

TRUTH

NO FEAR

is too big for the

GREAT ONE

who is always with me.



am never alone.

CALMING GOD, BRING COURAGE

TENDER SPIRIT, BREATHE PEACE

GENTLE JESUS, BE CLOSE

Amen