

## A NOTE TO PARENTS

*"Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the Lord. ... The same stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. ... Hosanna, Lord, hosanna! Lord, send us now success."*  
Psalm 118: 19, 22, 25

This exultant psalm touches on the heart of the mystery we are now approaching. In a way that we cannot understand, God works mercy through our sin and rebellion; God brings new life out of death, restoration out of loss, joy out of pain. The King wins his kingdom not through battle and vengeance but through utter defeat and sacrificial love.

This Sunday has two names: its traditional name of "Palm Sunday," and its now-official name, "The Sunday of the Passion." In most places, we go right on calling it "Palm Sunday," and this instinct is a sound one, not only because the blessing and bearing of palms is the most vivid thing we do in church on this day, but because this day is about triumph as well as Passion. It is right for us to begin our worship on this day with a procession and shouts of victory, to straggle cheerfully through the chilly spring sunshine, to belt away at a grand old hymn as the doors are flung open. And then it is right to be brought up short by the almost instant transition to scriptures that tell of pain, abandonment, and desolation, culminating in the long and brutal account of the crucifixion. But if we listen carefully, we will hear in each one of these readings the mysterious promise, that out of the utter emptiness of the Messiah's suffering, there comes God's gift of vindication, victory and new life. God has woven this pattern into the very fabric of creation. It meets us everywhere.

*Ride on, ride on, in majesty,  
In lowly pomp ride on to die;  
Bow thy meek head to mortal pain,  
Then take, O God, thy power and reign.*

Hosanna in the highest!

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# THE SUNDAY PAPER JUNIOR

Year C  
PALM  
SUNDAY



THIS IS PALM SUNDAY.

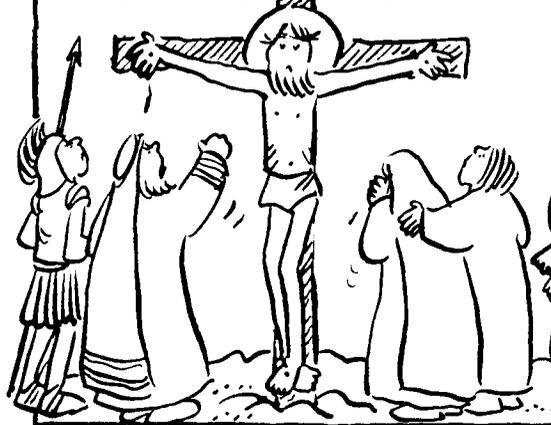
Jesus came to Jerusalem. People waved palms and shouted, "Hosanna!"



On Thursday of that week, Jesus shared bread and wine with his friends. But Jesus had enemies, too.



That night, his enemies found him and took him to jail. On Friday, he was killed on a cross.



Jesus's friends took his body down, and buried it in a cave tomb.



Palm Sunday is the first day of HOLY WEEK. This week, we remember how Jesus gave up his life for us. On MAUNDY THURSDAY, we remember his Last Supper with his friends. On GOOD FRIDAY we remember how he died on the cross. We call it "good," because Jesus died to bring us new life.

At the end of Holy Week, it is EASTER! Put the month and days on the calendar, and decorate it.

### HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
MAUNDY THURSDAY	GOOD FRIDAY	HOLY SATURDAY	EASTER SUNDAY

# THE SUNDAY PAPER

Year C  
PALM  
SUNDAY

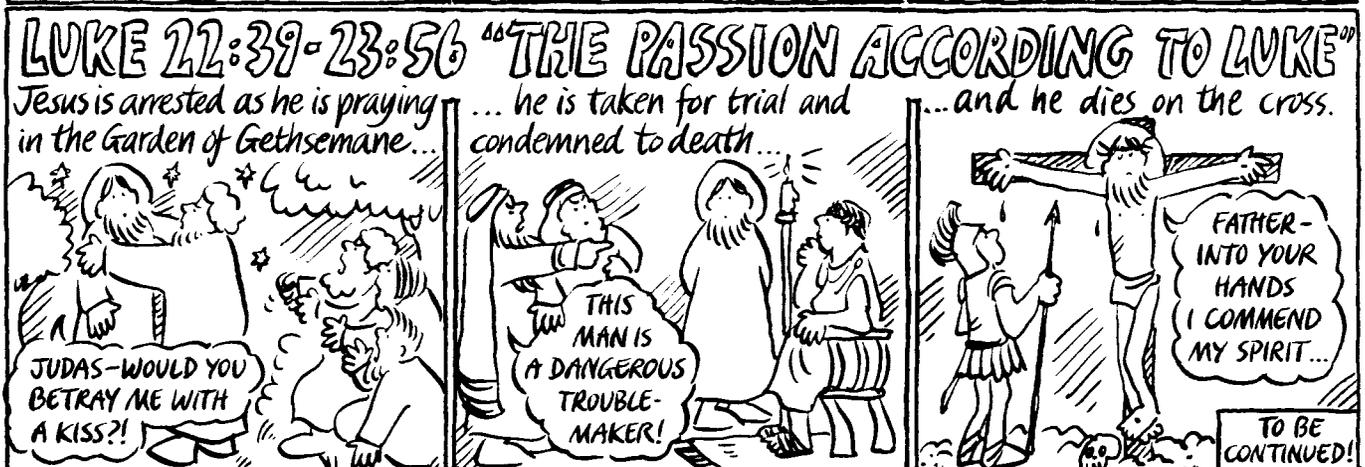
This Sunday is **PALM SUNDAY**. It is the day when Jesus came to Jerusalem for the Passover. The people cheered and waved palm branches, to show that they were welcoming the Messiah. They expected Jesus to show he was God's special chosen leader by winning a great victory over their enemies and setting his people free!



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Jesus did win a great victory and set his people free. He won a victory over death, and set us free from our worst enemy, our sins. He obeyed God all the way to his death on the cross, and won new life to share with us. He became our Messiah by dying for us and showing us the way out of sin and back to God!

Jesus's suffering and death are called his **PASSION**. So the other name for this Sunday is **THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION**.



# † THE SUNDAY PAPER † HOLY WEEK (PAGE 1)

<b>PALM SUNDAY</b> Jesus rides into Jerusalem	<b>MONDAY</b>  Jesus preaches in Jerusalem His enemies plan to arrest him	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> PASSOVER The Last Supper Jesus is arrested	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> Jesus is tried, crucified, and buried	<b>HOLY SATURDAY</b> Jesus in the tomb	<b>EASTER!</b> CHRIST IS RISEN!!
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The week between Palm Sunday and Easter is called HOLY WEEK. This is the week when we celebrate the mighty deeds that Jesus, the Messiah, did to set us free from sin and death.

Jesus came to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, to celebrate the Passover, the great Jewish festival of freedom. At Passover, God's people remember how he set them free from slavery in Egypt. We call Jesus's Passover celebration "The Last Supper," because he died the next day. We remember the Last Supper on Thursday of Holy Week. We learn how Jesus gave the Passover a new meaning by what he did that night and the next day.

This Thursday is sometimes called MAUNDY THURSDAY. "Maundy" means "commandment." At the Last Supper, Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment to live by!

<b>EXODUS 12:6-8</b> God says, "Kill a lamb and eat it with unleavened bread, to celebrate Passover"	<b>PSALM 116:12-13</b> "How shall I repay the Lord for his goodness? I will lift up the cup of salvation, and praise him"	<b>1 CORINTHIANS 11:26</b> "Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you show the Lord's death till he comes again"
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## THE LAST SUPPER

Luke 22, John 13

JESUS AND HIS FRIENDS SAT DOWN TO CELEBRATE THE PASSOVER SUPPER!



TONIGHT, I WILL BE ARRESTED! THE BIBLE SAYS THIS HAS TO HAPPEN TO THE MESSIAH—

WHO, LORD?!

BUT ONE OF YOU IS GOING TO HAND ME OVER!

WHAT? ONE OF US?!

NEVER, LORD!!

I'LL ALWAYS BE FAITHFUL TO YOU!

ME TOO! WHO'S THE TRAITOR?!

SHUT UP, WISE GUY!

THE DISCIPLES STARTED TO QUARREL! BUT JESUS GOT UP FROM THE TABLE...

WE SHOULD BE WAITING ON YOU, NOT YOU ON US!

THIS IS WHAT GOD WANTS YOU TO DO! YOU MUST BE SERVANTS, NOT MASTERS!

THIS IS GOD'S NEW COMMANDMENT TO YOU: (JOHN 13:34)!

# THE SUNDAY PAPER HOLY WEEK (PAGE 2)

The Friday in Holy Week is the day Jesus died. We call it **GOOD FRIDAY** because we believe Jesus's death gives us life.

Ever since we first disobeyed God, we have all had to die. Death is our punishment for sin. But Jesus changed all that. He wasn't a sinner. He didn't have to die. He came to share our death. He did our dying for us. Because he did that, now we can be free. We still have to die, but instead of being a punishment, it is our way to share Jesus's obedience. It is our way out of being sinners. It is our way back to God!

<p><b>ISAIAH 53:6</b> "We have gone astray like lost sheep, but God has laid all our sins on him"</p>	<p><b>PSALM 22:1</b> "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far away?"</p>	<p><b>HEBREWS 10:23</b> "Let us remember what Jesus did for us, and hold fast our hope"</p>
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**JESUS DIES FOR US**  
John 18 and 19  
AFTER SUPPER, JESUS AND HIS FRIENDS WENT OUT TO A GARDEN TO PRAY. JUDAS, ONE OF HIS FRIENDS...

...HAD TOLD THE TEMPLE GUARDS WHERE THEY COULD FIND JESUS!

THEY TOOK JESUS TO THE HIGH PRIEST, WHO PUT HIM ON TRIAL, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT!

DO YOU CLAIM TO BE THE MESSIAH?

ASK THE PEOPLE WHO HEARD ME SPEAK!

HEY! DON'T TALK BACK TO THE HIGH PRIEST!

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

PETER HAD FOLLOWED JESUS TO THE HIGH PRIEST'S HOUSE!

HEY! THERE'S ONE OF HIS FRIENDS!

YEAH! I SAW YOU IN THE GARDEN!

ME?! NO! I-I-NO!! NO WAY! I'VE NEVER EVEN MET THE GUY!

WE CONDEMN JESUS TO DEATH! TAKE HIM TO THE GOVERNOR, TO GET PERMISSION TO CRUCIFY HIM!

THE GOVERNOR WAS PONTIUS PILATE!

THIS SAYS YOU CLAIM TO BE A KING! IS THAT TRUE?

MY KINGDOM ISN'T IN THIS WORLD!

(THIS GUY IS JUST A NUT! I'LL HAVE HIM WHIPPED, AND LET HIM GO!)

SO JESUS WAS WHIPPED!

HA! CRAZY KING!

BY THIS TIME IT WAS MORNING. A CROWD HAD GATHERED!

(JOHN 19: 14) NOW I WANT TO LET HIM GO!

(BUT IF THIS MUB STARTS A RIOT, I'M IN BIG TROUBLE!)

NO! NO! CRUCIFY HIM!!

SO PILATE DECIDED TO HAVE JESUS CRUCIFIED. THEY MADE JESUS CARRY HIS CROSS TO A HILL CALLED GOLGOTHA. THERE, THEY CRUCIFIED HIM!

TWO CRIMINALS WERE CRUCIFIED WITH HIM!

JOHN! YES, LORD?

(TAKE CARE OF MY MOTHER!) IT IS FINISHED!

JESUS'S FRIENDS TOOK HIS BODY DOWN, WRAPPED IT, AND PUT IT IN A CAVE-TOMB.

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