



# Palm Sunday

Luke 19: 28–40 and Luke 22:14–23:56

## Two parades

In today's Gospel readings, Jesus' entry into Jerusalem is contrasted with his walk to Calvary. The waving of palms (and spruce branches) as we begin our Mass today is a welcoming of our King. That he is a king of Peace is symbolized by his riding of a donkey rather than a horse for battle, and the people welcomed him, crying 'Hosanna' (a special celebration of one who saves). They were welcoming their liberator, only they had a different expectation of how the following week would play out.

The disciples of Christ thought Jesus would become their literal King, replacing the existing ruler and taking over the government. Instead, he was arrested, beaten, and questioned by the judge, and refused to defend himself. He didn't fight back. He even told his disciples not to fight to defend him, but to let it happen. What kind of King was this?

A week earlier the crowds had celebrated Jesus' return to Jerusalem. Now the crowds asked to have him crucified, the guards mocked him, and he was put to death.

How carefully do we listen when we are being taught? How willing are we to stand up and defend our values? Do we tend to follow the crowd even when the crowd is wrong for fear of being named/different?

Jesus asks us to be like him: to speak out for those who are ignored or excluded, to treat with respect people who are forgotten/cast aside, and to see in each person his own likeness. He asks us to carry his voice, even when it is difficult or costs us a moment of comfort.

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## Discussion:

- **Who is in most need of our courage and faithfulness today?**
- **Where do you see unfair rules in your life? What can we do about these unfair rules?**

Listen to the story of **Rehana and her family** (Rehana is Shominara's mother, the Rohingya girl from Burma you met on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent). Carry their story with you.

**Note to parents:** *The video story includes content that may be difficult for young viewers. Please watch the video beforehand to ensure it is appropriate for your child(ren) and prepare for questions that may arise.*

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Lent 2019



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