



# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9am-4pm; Fri: Office Closed

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## March 29, 2026 + Palm Sunday

*In this Places of the Passion service for Palm Sunday, we go to Bethphage, the place where the ride into Jerusalem on a donkey begins for Jesus. It is here where we discover that Jesus is a humble King who serves as he heads toward the cross.*

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### + GATHERING +

#### **Prelude**

*(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)*

#### **Welcome**

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church in Albion! We offer a warm welcome to all who are worshipping in person or by way of Vyve Cable Channel 21 and Facebook Live. We hope that you encounter a word of God's grace and love in this worship service.

**Holy Communion** will be celebrated today. At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Christ are welcome to share in the Lord's meal. Holy Communion will be distributed in person or by pre-packaged elements. If you are uncomfortable coming forward, please pick up the communion elements as you enter worship. We will partake of the sacrament as directed by the pastor within the worship service. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with an usher. Gluten Free wafers are available on request.





# Palm Sunday

## **Procession with Palms** *(based on John 12:12-19)*

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Hosanna!  
**Hosanna in the highest!**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!  
**Hosanna in the highest!**

Hosanna!  
**Hosanna in the highest!**

The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, **“Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!”**

And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, **“Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!”**

His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him.

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*

O Lord, God Almighty,  
bless these branches and the people who bear them  
that you would be praised and your name be glorified.

As we trace the journey of Jesus into Jerusalem,  
and ultimately to the cross and empty tomb,  
remind us that through these holy acts  
you have opened the door for us to everlasting life. Amen.

Processional Hymn

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

#344

*Refrain*



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



- 1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
- 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
- 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
- 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
- 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring.

*Refrain*



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One,  
cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.  
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.  
To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.  
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.  
Music: Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635  
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## **Confession and Absolution**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin, and whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to God, in the presence of one another,  
believing and trusting in the forgiveness of all our sins.

*Silence for meditation and self-examination.*

Merciful and mighty Father,  
**you know us well.**

**We are quick to speak of faith, but slow to live it out.**

**We shout “hosanna” as Jesus approaches,  
as did the people of Jerusalem,  
but we do not want him coming too close to us.**

**Not close enough to really see our greed and our grasping,  
our pride and our pretense, our envy and our strife,  
our hard hearts and lackluster prayers,  
our willful disobedience and ongoing sin,  
our harsh words and condemning judgments,  
our backbiting and badmouthing,  
our lame excuses, or our fickle faith.**

**Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!**

Hear the good news!

Jesus walked to places of rejection, suffering, torment and death for you.

Jesus was determined

to go to Gethsemane, Gabbatha and Golgotha for you.

That’s why Jesus forgives you completely and loves you eternally.

**Faithful Lord, with me abide!**

**I shall follow where you guide!**

## **Call to Worship**

Let us ever walk with Jesus.

**To see the depths of his love.**

To behold the gift of his forgiveness.

**To gaze upon the heights of his grace.**

To marvel at the magnitude of his mercy.

**We walk with Jesus to the City of Jerusalem.**

Because Passover is coming.  
**And the Son of Man will be crucified.**

Faithful Lord, with me abide.  
**I shall follow where you guide!**

### **The Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

**Hymns of Praise**      *He'll be Riding on a Donkey*      SS Choir

*He'll be riding on a donkey when he comes.*

*He'll be riding on a donkey when he comes.*

*He'll be riding on a donkey, He'll be riding on a donkey,*

*He'll be riding on a donkey when he comes.*

v. 2      *We will all come out to meet him when he comes.*

v.3      *We will lay our coats before him when he comes.*

v. 4      *We will wave our palms to greet him when he comes.*

### ***Palm Sunday Song (Blessed Is He...)***

CHORUS: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord  
*(Clap clap clap)* Hosanna  
*(Clap clap clap)* Hosanna  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord  
*(Clap clap clap)* Hosanna  
*(Clap clap clap)* Hosanna  
Wave your branches, shout His praise,  
He's our King who's come to save,  
Save us, Jesus, as we pray:  
We want you as our King, Jesus  
We want you as our King.

VERSE 1: See your King ride in peace on a donkey, not a horse for war,  
As revealed through the words of His prophet  
many years before.

See the crowds lay their coats down before  
this humble King of Kings.  
Just as He'd lay His life down for all,  
so at His throne we'll sing....

CHORUS: Blessed is He...

VERSE 2: Hear the children shout to their King  
with loud applause and cheers.  
Yet he knows within days this will change to 'crucify' and jeers.  
Hear how those who would stand up against Him  
try and hush the crowds.  
Yet he knows that if nobody praised  
the stones would shout out loud.....

CHORUS: Blessed is He...

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## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*

Most merciful God,  
**as the people of Jerusalem, with palms in hand,  
gathered to greet your Son when he came into the City of David,  
grant that we may hail him as our King  
and walk with him in the way that leads to eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

✝ WORD ✝

## Old Testament Reading

Zechariah 9:9-11

*Written in the post-exilic period, this passage offers hope for a peaceful, divine kingdom, which Jesus fulfilled in the Gospels. It promises freedom for prisoners of the covenant and a shift from earthly warfare to spiritual victory.*

*A reading from Zechariah.*

<sup>9</sup>Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!  
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!  
Lo, your king comes to you;  
triumphant and victorious is he,  
humble and riding on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

<sup>10</sup>He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim  
and the war-horse from Jerusalem;  
and the battle bow shall be cut off,  
and he shall command peace to the nations;  
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

<sup>11</sup>As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,  
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.  
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Second Reading**

Philippians 2:5-11

*Paul calls believers to adopt the same humble, self-sacrificial mindset as Christ, who emptied himself to become human and obediently died on the cross.*

*A reading from Philippians.*

<sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,

<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

<sup>8</sup>he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death —  
even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus  
 every knee should bend,  
 in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess  
 that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
 to the glory of God the Father.  
 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Lenten Verse

*ELW setting 4*



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,  
 slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:1-11

*This passage details the crucial, tense, and politically charged trial of Jesus before the Roman governor Pontius Pilate. It highlights Jesus' affirmation of his kingship, his surprising silence against accusations, Pilate's attempt to release him, his wife's warning, and the crowd's demand for Barabbas, setting the stage for the crucifixion.*

*The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21<sup>st</sup> Chapter.*  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” <sup>4</sup>This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

<sup>5</sup>“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.”

<sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup>they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup>A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup>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!”

<sup>10</sup>When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” <sup>11</sup>The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Children’s Time

### Sermon

*Bethphage*

### Hymn of the Day

### *Hosanna! Little Children Sang*

*(Tune: #521)*



Ho - san-na, loud ho - san - na, the lit - tle chil-dren sang;  
From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed a - mid an ex - ul - tant crowd,  
“Ho - san - na in the high - est!” that anc - ient song we sing;



Through pil - lared court and tem - ple the joy - ful an-them rang.  
The vic - tor palm branch wav - ing and chant-ing clear and loud;  
For Christ is our Re - deem - er, the Lord of heav’n our King.



To Je-sus, who had blessed them, close fold-ed to his breast,  
The Lord of earth and hea - ven rode on in low - ly state,  
Oh, may we ev - er praise him with heart and life and voice,

*(Hymn continues on the next page)*



- P You hold the whole universe.  
Gather sun and moon, clouds and stars, land and sea,  
and plants and animals around the cross,  
so that all creation bears witness to your saving love.  
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**
- A Your power is sure. Destroy inequity and division in every place,  
and build your beloved community among all people.  
Guide judges, attorneys, and juries  
so that they act with justice and fairness.  
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**
- P Your heart breaks open at our pain.  
Send healing and vindication to all who, like Jesus,  
know the sting of betrayal, denial, abuse, or false accusations.  
Be with those experiencing pain or loss this day, *especially...*  
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**
- A Your ways show compassion.  
Let this same mind be in us as we enter Holy Week.  
Bless those here who will lead worship  
and tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection.  
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**
- P Here other intercessions may be offered.  
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**
- A O God, your embrace is eternal.  
Praise and thanks to you  
for all the faithful departed who rest in your mercy.  
Deliver us all from death's power and raise us to life in you.  
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**
- P Receive our prayers, O God,  
through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

## **Peace**

The Peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

✠ OFFERING ✠

Offering Response

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

#186



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

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✠ MEAL ✠

**Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**



**Proper Preface**

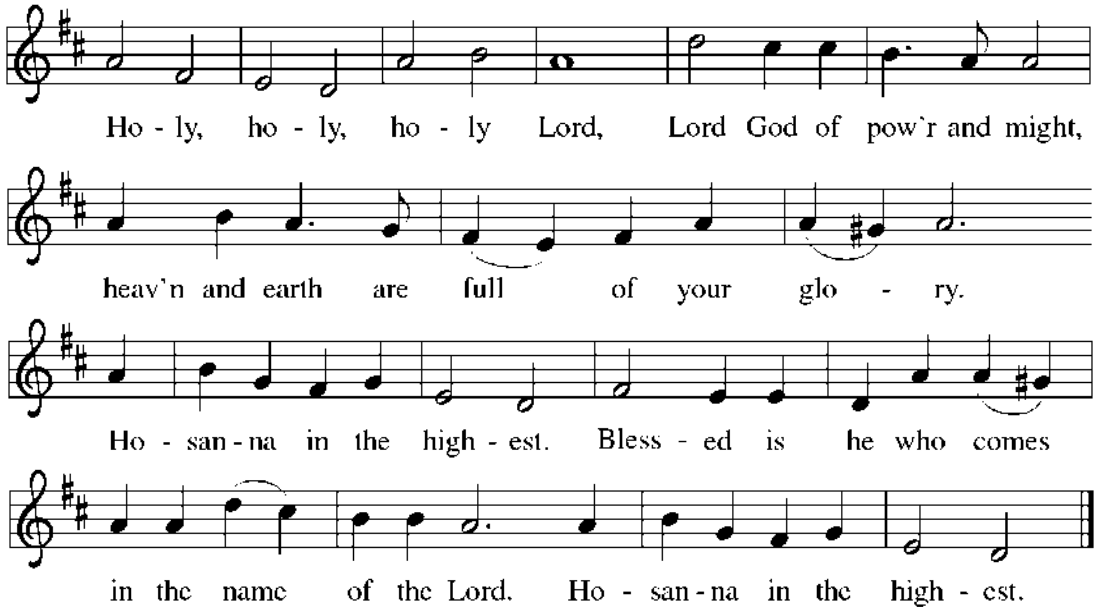
It is our joy and destiny to praise you, Lord God,  
for in wondrous love you cast stars into space,  
and in meek obedience your Son surrendered to cruel nails.

With loving-kindness you called your people in Abraham,  
 and in covenant with Moses you bound up your life in theirs.  
 Through exile you stayed close to them,  
 and in Jesus you came among them  
 bearing the fullness of grace and truth.  
 Your Son Jesus faced rejection, cruelty, and death,  
 yet in resurrection you exalted him,  
 and in sending your Spirit you shed glory on all people.  
 And so we rejoice with angels and archangels,  
 and with all the company of heaven,  
 singing the song of your unending praise.

**Sanctus**

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

*ELW setting 4*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
 Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

**Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution**

Hosanna is our cry, Blessed One.  
 Your Son comes on a donkey in your name.  
 As Jesus entered Jerusalem to bear our sorrows and suffer for our sins,  
 enter our hearts and confront our waywardness today.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us,  
that we may be your Son's crucified and risen body.

Send your Spirit upon this bread that it may be living bread,  
and on this wine that it may be the cup of salvation, that together  
they may be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ;  
who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks;  
broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:

*Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.*

After supper, Jesus took the cup,  
again he gave you thanks,  
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

*Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.*

With this bread and cup  
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life  
as we proclaim the great mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Humble God, your Son did not exploit his status  
but emptied himself.

Pour out your Spirit on all who are exploited, in world or church,  
on all who are humbled, by state or employer or family member,  
on all who are emptied of hope, faith, or love.

As you highly exalted your Son who had become a slave,  
highly exalt your children who suffer for righteousness,  
or grieve those they have cherished,  
or bend the knee to one who does not honor them.

Fill the earth with your justice and peace,  
until every heart shall sing and every tongue confess  
that you are the joy of their desiring, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,  
ever one God, in all ages and forevermore. **Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come, thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

## Agnus Dei

## Lamb of God

*ELW setting 4*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Distribution with silence for meditation

If you are joining us from home or are taking communion from your seat:

*The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.*

*The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.*



## Table Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and preserve you unto eternal life. **Amen.**

## Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*

God of our salvation,

**we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.**

**Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

## Announcements

## Benediction

Jesus invites us to walk with him to Jerusalem, a place of great suffering and a place of great love.

**We will walk with Jesus all the way to the empty tomb and resurrection victory. Amen.**

## Sending Song

### *Ride On, Ride On in Majesty*

(SBH #73)



1. Ride on, ride on in ma - jes - ty! Hark! all the tribes Ho - san - na cry;  
2. Ride on, ride on in ma - jes - ty! In low - ly pomp ride on to die!  
3. Ride on, ride on in ma - jes - ty! The wing - ed squad - rons of the sky

O Sav-iour meek, pur - sue thy road With palms and scat-tered gar-ments strowed.  
 O Christ, thy tri-umphs now be - gin O'er cap - tive death and con-quer'd sin.  
 Look down with sad and wondering eyes To see the ap-proach-ing sac-ri - fice.

4 Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
 Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh:  
 The Father on his sapphire throne  
 Expects his own anointed Son.

5 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.

Text: Henry H. Milman, 1791-1868, alt.;  
 Music: John Bacchus Dykes, 1823-1876  
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## Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**



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# The Triumphal Entry Jumble



DOYNKE

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6

TLOC

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2

STUOH

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3

1

ADAEH

--	--	--	--	--	--

4

7

KNIG

--	--	--	--

5

The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted "\_\_\_\_\_ to the Son of David!" Matthew 21:9a (NIV)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Unscramble each word, then arrange the circled letters to form a word that will complete the statement that Jesus made about himself.

HERE ARE SOME CLUES IN CASE YOU NEED HELP!

1. A small animal similar to a horse that has long ears.  
Matthew 21:2(NIV)
1. A young male horse (or donkey). Matthew 21:2 (NIV)
2. To call out in a loud voice. Matthew 21:9 (NIV)
3. The opposite of behind. Matthew 21:9 (NIV)
5. A male ruler of a country. Matthew 21:5 (NIV)

# The Triumphal Entry

A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Matthew 21:8 (NIV)

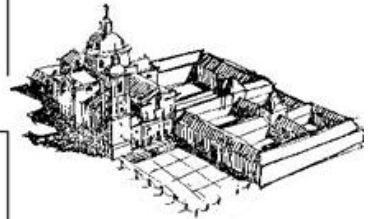
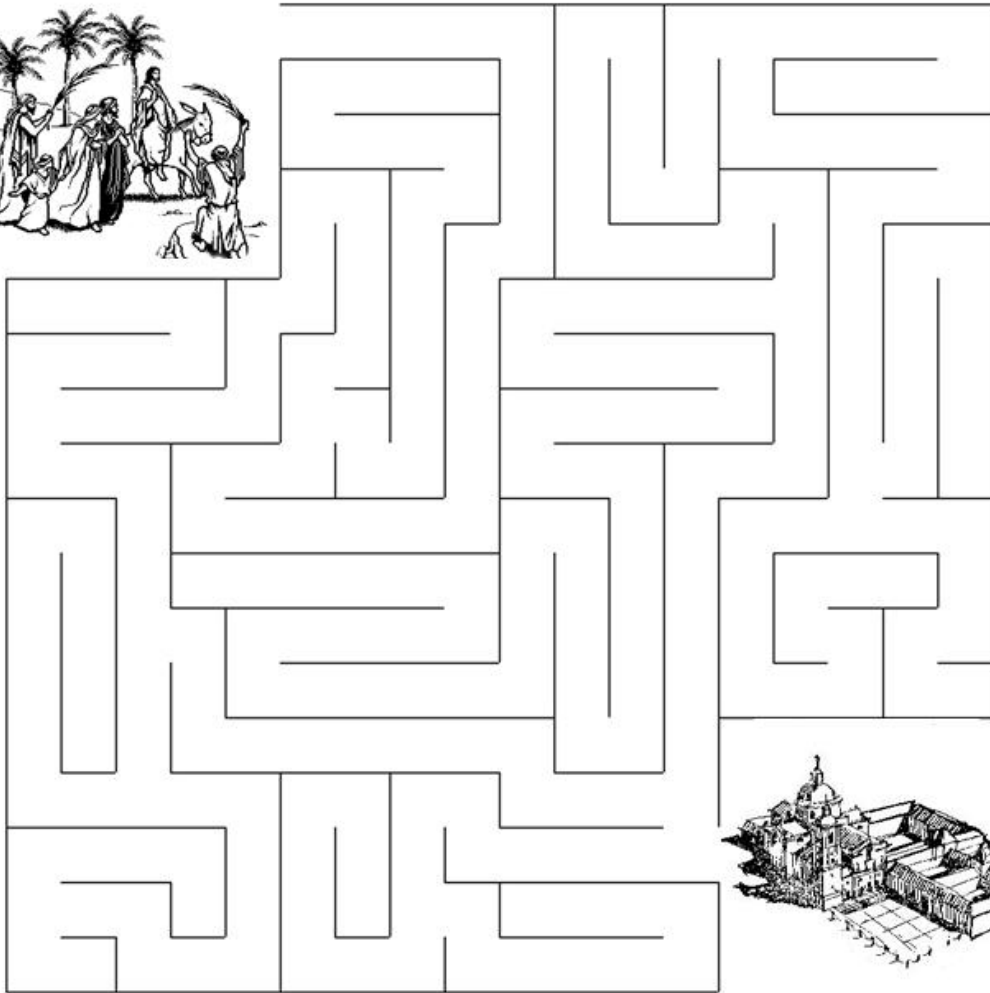
Based on Matthew 21:1-11



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

RIDING	SPOKEN	JESUS	PROPHET	MOUNT
BRANCHES	BLESSED	JERUSALEM	HOSANNA	KING
CLOAKS	LORD	FULFILL	DONKEY	FOAL
VILLAGE	DISCIPLES	OLIVES	GENTLE	COLT

# The Triumphal Entry Maze



Follow Jesus through the streets of Jerusalem.

The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

(Matthew 21:9)