

PALM SUNDAY (YEAR B) Sunday 24 March 2024

## EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

# PROCESSIONAL BANNERS

### EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

#### *Introducing the Gospel*

*Jesus' entry into Jerusalem (Mark 11: 1-11)*

The events of Holy Week begin with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem riding on a donkey. Each of the three synoptic Gospels tells the story in a slightly different way, but the key idea remains the same. Drawing on imagery from the Old Testament, the Gospel writers make it plain that Jesus is entering Jerusalem as Messiah. Some local churches now capture the Palm Sunday theme by arranging a procession through the streets. Some of these processions include processional banners.

Our image to stimulate reflection on Mark's account of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday is *processional banners*.

#### *Extracts from the Gospel passage (Mark 11:7-9; for reflection throughout the week)*

Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it;  
and he sat on it.

Many people spread their cloaks on the road,  
and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields.  
Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,  
'Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Blessed is the coming Kingdom of our ancestor David!  
Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

#### *Gospel prayer (for use throughout the week)*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you rode into Jerusalem to shouts of Hosanna.  
Ride into our lives and accept our praise.  
Hosanna to the Son of David,  
Hosanna in the highest heaven;  
Hosanna now and always.  
Amen.

### READING NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

**Mark 11: 1-11**

**Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem**

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, "Why are you doing this?" just say this, "The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately."' They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, 'What are you doing, untying the colt?' They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

'Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

## **ENGAGING WITH THE THEME**

### ***Dwelling on the text (Mark 11: 1-11)***

Begin exploring Mark's account of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday by employing the SIFT approach of Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking. You may find that one of these approaches comes easier to you than the others. But it is worth trying all four.

- What details in the passage catch your attention (Sensing)?
- What big ideas in the passage spark in your mind (Intuition)?
- What most touches your heart in the passage (Feeling)?
- What most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage (Thinking)?

### ***Thinking and talking***

Identify topics within the passage that can get you thinking and talking. Here are some ideas to get you started.

- How do you read Jesus' instructions to find the colt?
- What do you make of Jesus' decision to ride the donkey?
- How do you understand the shout of 'Hosanna!'?
- What do you make of Jesus looking around the temple and then going away?
- How can we best understand the narrative today?

### ***Using your Bible***

Explore how the other two synoptic Gospels develop Mark's account of the triumphal entry into Jerusalem:

- Matthew 21: 1-12
- Luke 19: 29-45

Explore the Old Testament roots for the imagery in Mark's narrative (and see also 1 Maccabees):

- 2 Kings 9: 11-13
- Psalm 118: 26
- Zechariah 9: 9
- 1 Maccabees 13: 50-52

### ***Exploring online***

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Widen your exploration of Mark's account of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday by looking up some of the following themes and others of your own choosing.

- Palm Sunday celebrations around the world
- Processional banners
- Making church banners

### *Drawing on experience*

The image to stimulate reflection on Mark's account of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday is *processional banners*. Draw on your experience of banners. For example:

- Your experience of Palm Sunday services and outdoor processions
- Your experiences of processional church banners
- Stirring settings of the Sanctus and Benedictus

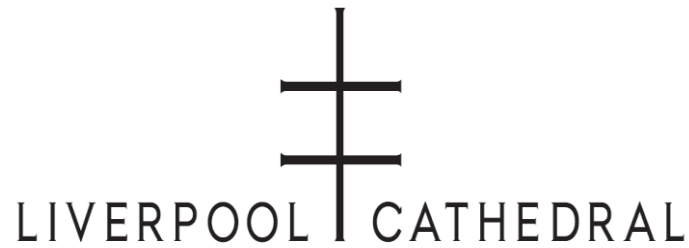
What have you learned about processional banners?

### *Creating and making*

This section offers pointers to some creative activities that may be inspired by Mark's account of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday or by the image of processional banners.

- Create a collage of church banners.
- Make a poster of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.
- Make a church processional banner.
- Create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the theme of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday or on the image of processional banners.

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## **EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME**

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

Our invitation then is for you to share your reflections, prayers and photos of your creative work with the Cathedral by emailing them to [smc.lesliefrancis@gmail.com](mailto:smc.lesliefrancis@gmail.com).

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales and the St Christopher's College Trust.



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