

Sermon 29 March 2026 – Palm Sunday. Family Service

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Today is a very special day called Palm Sunday!

It's the day we remember how people welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem. They were so excited!

Imagine the best party or parade you have ever been to—music, cheering, people waving their hands in the air. That's what it was like! People were waving palm branches and shouting a special word.

Does anyone remember what it was?

Yes, that's right—**HOSANNA!**

Let's try it together. On the count of three, wave your arms (or your palm branches) high in the air and shout "Hosanna!"

Ready?

1... 2... 3... **HOSANNA!**

Wonderful!

Do you know what "Hosanna" means?

It means "Save us!" or "Help us!" And the people were shouting it because they had hope—hope that Jesus was the King who would save them from the hard times they were going through.

But tell me...have you ever had a week, or even a day, which started out really well... and then, suddenly, everything started to go wrong? Maybe you were excited for school, but then you got into trouble. Or you were playing with friends, but then someone said something mean."

Show me with your faces—what does it look like when a happy day turns into a sad day? Yes, that's how things began to for Jesus and his friends.

After that joyful day – when everyone was happy and praising Jesus - things started to change during that week.

One of Jesus' friends — Judas — made a bad choice. He accepted money, promising to help some people have Jesus arrested.

Have you ever had someone let you down? Can you think of a time when you may have hurt someone's feelings or let them down? How did it make you feel? Hurt... sad...angry.

And do you know what? Jesus understands those feelings.

He was arrested even though he had done nothing wrong. People treated badly. And some of the people who shouted 'Hosanna' on Sunday started shouting 'Crucify him' by Friday. Even his best friends ran away because they were scared.

Jesus must have felt very hurt and very alone, hey.

Now, think about this...

When someone hurts us, what do we usually want to do? Yes, we often want to hurt them back.

Is that what Jesus did? No...Did he shout at them or get even. No!

Why do you think Jesus chose to go through all of this? Yes, because he loves us so much. Even when it was hard. Even when he felt lonely and rejected. He chose to show love.

And Jesus wants us to remember this—and to do the same.

Even when days are sad.

Even when things go wrong.

Even when life feels unfair.

We can still choose love.

Because His love brings hope, joy, and peace back into our lives.

And so, Palm Sunday reminds us that joy can turn into sadness—but with Jesus, sadness is not the end. God always has a bigger plan. Because after this sad week...comes a celebration.

Now, I would like everyone to take their hands and make a tight fist. This is what it feels like when we are angry, scared, or hurt. Now, slowly open your hands. That

open hand is like Jesus' love—it's open to everyone - even the people who were unkind to Him.

Let us keep our hands open while we pray:

Dear Jesus, thank You for loving us even when things are hard. Help us choose love, just like You did. Please fill our hearts and lives with your love, hope, joy, and peace so that we may truly enjoy life in all its fullness this - Holy Week and always.

Hosanna!

Amen