

The Entrance into Jerusalem



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2021 Alexandra Houck.
Email is orthodoxchildrensword (at) gmail.com. Find it each week at myocn.net.

The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

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Growing with Holy Week



How many times have you heard the story of Holy Week? Five times? Ten times? Even more? Maybe you've heard something that you didn't understand, but then, the next time you heard it, you did understand!

Today is Palm Sunday, and we all remember what we celebrate today. We read about it in the Gospel too! We hear how Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, and we hear how the people laid palm branches on the ground for Him. We hear how Jesus sat on a donkey, and He rode into the city. We've heard this story so many times, haven't we?

The Gospel also tells us what Jesus's disciples, His friends, thought about the whole scene too. It says, "His disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of Him and had been done to Him." The disciples didn't understand why Jesus rode in on a donkey!

Lots of times, we might not understand things about God, but we can grow closer to Him. Then we will understand it, just as Christ's own disciples did. This Holy Week, we can go to church many times, and we can hear these same special stories again and again. When we listen to the words about God, we grow closer to Him, and we understand more and more each year. And do you know something? *That* is just what our Lord wants us to do!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

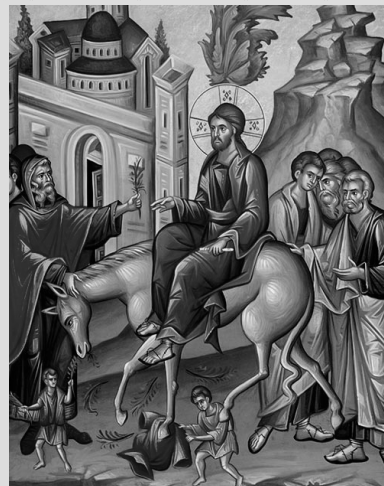
Branches
Donkey
Entrance
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Understand

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T	G	O	S	P	E	L	E	X	B	E	C	C	G	M
Q	E	Z	Q	M	R	D	M	Y	W	H	S	E	U	S
C	X	H	Z	U	N	E	L	Y	Z	Q	B	R	U	H
U	I	P	P	U	K	I	E	E	E	L	F	A	Q	M
U	S	Y	U	O	P	W	X	K	O	I	H	Q	O	Q
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What's in an icon?

Can you find the children in the icon of Palm Sunday?

They sure had an important job. How can *you* be like these faithful children today?



PALM SUNDAY AROUND THE WORLD!

Do you have palm trees in your backyard? Probably not, but we will all still receive a beautiful palm cross after church today. Most of the palms in America have been shipped in from Florida. But did you know that Orthodox Christians in some countries celebrate this day without palms? In some places, palms are too hard to find. Let's look at how our fellow Orthodox Christians around the world celebrate this special day!



In the Middle East, like **Pal-estine, Lebanon, and Syria**, Orthodox faithful carry branches from olive trees and palm trees. The priest blesses everybody with an olive branch dipped in holy water.



In **Russia and the Ukraine**, the climate is too cold for palm trees to grow. Instead, Orthodox Christians receive pussy willow branches to remember the branches that Jesus' followers laid down on the ground. They use pussy willows in **Albania**



In **Romania**, faithful Christians call this day **Flowers Sunday**. Instead of palms, people bring spring flowers from their gardens, and after church, everybody brings home bouquets of flowers and basil.



In **Greece**, the faithful carry bay leaves and palms. Sometimes the churches are decorated with olive branches too. The children carry these branches to the church, singing songs for the day! In **Cyprus**, the people call it **Olive Sunday**, because they carry olive branches instead. Later, they burn the branches to make incense!



Bulgarians also celebrate this day with flowers. If you have a flower-related name, like *Lilia* or *Violeta*, you would celebrate today as your nameday.