

PALM SUNDAY APRIL 5, 2020

created by Murray Pruden



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Prayer:

Creator of Heaven and Earth, we pray and come as we are to remember and shout- Hosanna in the highest, save us we pray. This the Palm Sunday approach to remind us that God has entered our lives. As we take the time in our own way to unite in Spirit the coming of Jesus into the city of Jerusalem, as he did on what we recognize as Palm Sunday; that Jesus enter our lives now during our time of need today as we pray for all of life creation today.

Hear us, loving God, as we pray. We pray for our Nations living together here on Turtle Island, within this country we call Canada, and the numerous territories of the Indigenous peoples of this great land. We pray for children and youth to grow strong and be mindful of your teachings and the wonderful land you have provided for all creations to live together as one. We appreciate the wisdom of our peoples, the elders, and the many ancestors and loved ones who came and left before us, and whom are with us still. For they are your wisdom and knowledge, and teachers of livelihood.

All your teachings, the good and the bad, are great. They make us the loving and blessed people we are today. Jesus taught us about the path of love. Let your blessed love embrace all those, including us here today, where ever we may dwell, that need and require a source of comfort and joy. And may we all journey along a humble path in the many ways we do—for the sake of unity and understanding, the acceptance of our differences, and kindness. With your gentle breeze, give us hope. We pray for this in Jesus' name and for the ways of peace and grace.

Hosanna in the highest. Save us, we pray. Amen.



<https://www.crosswalk.com/church/pastors-or-leadership/ask-roger/8-things-most-christians-don-t-understand-about-jesus-triumphal-entry.html>

Scripture for Palm Sunday:

Matthew 21:1-11 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

21 When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2 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. 3 If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately.[a]" 4

This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

5 “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.”

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

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



<https://www.crosswalk.com/blogs/debbie-mcdaniel/5-things-about-palm-sunday-that-remind-us-christ-is-king.html>

Reflection:

Don't Rain on My Parade- Murray Pruden



When I think of Palm Sunday, I envision a parade. You remember those times when community get together to recognize and celebrate something of importance- summer festivals, rodeos, the annual treaty days, Santa Clause parade, Grey cup, Stanley cup victory, the list is endless to what we parade for. And as we look forward to a parade, we look for good weather and dread bad weather, rain when it comes to a parade. As Barbara Streisand sings out the lyrics written by Bob Merrill and Jule Styne, “Don't bring around a cloud, To rain on my parade”.

The clouds that happen in our lives can bring a damper to our parade, our celebration, a downer to our joy. That cloud can be anything. And then from that point we have a choice. Do we let that cloud truly rain on our parade? Or do we accept that cloud for what it is, a message from God as a time to learn and love, and then carry on with our parade? Sometimes that pause in the parade must occur, so we see why we are celebrating life. And that sometimes means having clouds and bad weather in our path so we remember to appreciate all that creation has given us- the clouds,

the storms, the faults and trauma we go through each day that Creator blesses us with on this Earth. That it's not the parade that matters but the way we live and who we are as faithful people, in the joyous times and in the times of sorrow. That in God's eyes, we matter every moment, and every breathe of our daily life. God will continue to love us no matter what we do or where we are in our life. The question then comes to us as individuals- can we love ourselves and Creator's creations just as much as Creator loves us?

Jesus in this time of Palm Sunday, came riding on a donkey colt to the city of Jerusalem and many of his followers came out to the streets to welcome him as he paraded into the city. And many followers of Jesus laid out palm leaves before him on the street road as a gesture. This gesture we still practice as Christian people to signify that the Messiah has come and that we ask him to save us. Hosanna in the highest.

Today isn't different. As we are asked to stay in isolation because of the Covid 19 pandemic across Turtle Island and this world, we once again ask for that blessing and that sign of Creators presence in our life. As we take time to pray this Palm Sunday, lift your hands to the day and ask God to be with us in this time of need and time of creation. Lift up your palm branches, your cedar branches, your sweetgrass, your sage bundles and what other good medicines Mother Earth has given us to heal. And celebrate in prayer and in gratitude to God once again. Hosanna in the highest. Save us, we pray. And love one another once again, as Jesus has taught us Humankind to do and be. Thanks be to God. Amen.



<https://tribaltrade.com/blogs/teachings/smudge-ceremony-with-native-medicines-sweetgrass-sage-tobacco-amp-cedar>

A Blessing:

God loves you and Blesses you.

We pray that you always love yourself,

Heal and take care of yourself,

With the guidance of Jesus our friend and teacher,

The Holy Spirit that brings us the source of our being,

And the Creator, the maker of it all.

Amen.

