

For St. James Sunday School Students – 3/28/2021

Sunday School continues with 1 p.m. Zoom connection

For our 28th session of the 2020-21 school year, please join us at 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 28, for a virtual get-together to celebrate the conclusion of Great Lent, celebrate Palm Sunday and prepare ourselves for the resurrection of our Savior on Easter. Holy Week beckons!!

Please check out the interesting Palm Sunday video at this [link](#). And please join us:

Info for scheduled Sunday School Zoom meeting 1 p.m. on 3/28.

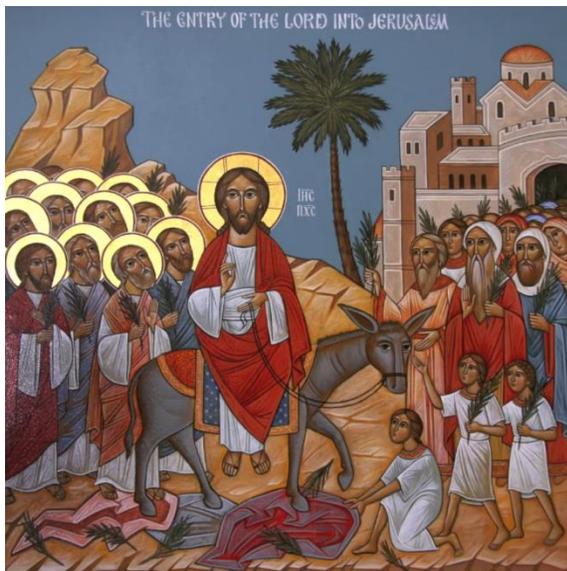
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82090452263?pwd=WjNRNGFpSWWh6UG9lYXhzeUdpZWJBdz09>

Meeting ID: 820 9045 2263

Passcode: xe4BmU

Today is Palm Sunday (Dzaghgazart)



This day recalls Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. He is greeted by throngs of people laying their cloaks and palm branches on the road before him as a royal carpet of welcome. Matthew understood the event as the fulfillment of specific prophecies, including Zechariah 9:9 (today's reading). Therefore, for many gathered, this *was* the entrance of the Messiah and conformed fully to Old Testament prophecy and Jewish expectations. Yet how poorly the crowd understood the nature of the kingdom and the king they were welcoming since not long afterwards their "Hosannas!" turned to the jeering shouts of "Crucify him!" The service of the *Opening of the Doors* is also held on Palm Sunday, during which the priest and people pray for entry once again into God's presence. The

term *Dzaghgazart* ("adorned with flowers") may refer to an older pagan feast. *Discuss/reflect:* In *Matthew 21:10* we read that "when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked: "Who is this?" Has he entered your heart? Are you prompted to know more about who He is?

Bible Readings for Sunday, March 28

From Today's Readings

Matthew 20:29-21:17 The healing of the two blind men is a poignant prelude to the story of Jesus' triumphal arrival in Jerusalem (see below). The two persist in loudly declaring their faith despite the crowd's rebuke. Upon being healed by their Lord, they follow him. The passage continues with the Palm Sunday story (21:1-11) and the account of Jesus driving the moneychangers from the Temple. *Discuss/reflect: If Jesus said to you (as he did to the blind men) "what do you want me to do for you?" how would you answer?*

Philippians 4: 4-7 In a letter overflowing with the joy of knowing Jesus, St. Paul sums it all up in these few verses: Rejoice in the Lord, know that he is near, be gentle with everyone, don't worry about a thing, pray your gratitude, and God's peace will guard your heart in Christ Jesus. *Discuss/reflect: Personalize verse 7 and memorize it: "The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, guards my heart and mind in Christ Jesus." Pray this throughout the day.*

Zechariah 9: 9-15 Set in the context of the Jews' return from the Babylonian exile and the rebuilding of Jerusalem, Zechariah looks expectantly to when God will transform his people into a holy nation. In these verses, we see a striking prophecy of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem "gentle and riding on a donkey." *Discuss/reflect: What images of peace and restoration can you identify in verses 9-10? Why a donkey (v.9; see Matthew 21:5) and not a warhorse?*



For a video about Palm Sunday, please click this [link](#):

[God's Story: Palm Sunday - YouTube](#)