

“TAKE 10 - Worship While Away” (Sunday, March 29, 2026)

Share:

What will we lay down in obedience as Christ passes by?

We have no cloaks today, but we will lay down our hearts, our hopes, and our lives.

As the crowds in Jerusalem cried out long ago, we echo,

Hosanna! Save us! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Read these words from a hymn:

A Cheering, Chanting Dizzy Crowd

A cheering, chanting, dizzy crowd had stripped the green trees bare,
And hailing Christ as king aloud, waved branches in the air.

They laid their garments in the road and spread his path with palms
And vows of lasting love bestowed with royal hymns and psalms.

When day dimmed down to deep'ning dark, the crowd began to fade
'Till only trampled leaves and bark were left from the parade.

Lest we be fooled because our hearts have surged with passing praise,
Remind us, God, as this week starts, where Christ has fixed his gaze.

Instead of palms a winding sheet will have to be unrolled,
A carpet much more fit to greet the king a cross will hold.

Read this scripture from worship:

Zechariah 9:9-12, The Message

9"Shout and cheer, Daughter Zion! Raise the roof, Daughter Jerusalem! Your king is coming! a good king who makes all things right, a humble king riding a donkey, a mere colt of a donkey.

10 I've had it with war - no more chariots in Ephraim, no more war horses in Jerusalem, no more swords and spears, bows and arrows. He will offer peace to the nations, a peaceful rule worldwide, from the four winds to the seven seas.

11 "And you, because of my blood covenant with you, I'll release your prisoners from their hopeless cells.

12 Come home, hope-filled prisoners! This very day I'm declaring a double bonus - everything you lost returned twice-over!

Matthew 21:1-11, The Message

¹⁻³ When they neared Jerusalem, having arrived at Bethphage on Mount Olives, Jesus sent two disciples with these instructions: "Go over to the village across from you. You'll find a donkey tethered there, her colt with her. Untie her and bring them to me. If anyone asks what you're doing, say, 'The Master needs them!' He will send them with you."

⁴⁻⁵ This is the full story of what was sketched earlier by the prophet: Tell Zion's daughter, "Look, your king's on his way, poised and ready, mounted on a donkey, on a colt, foal of a pack animal."

⁶⁻⁹ The disciples went and did exactly what Jesus told them to do. They led the donkey and colt out, laid some of their clothes on them, and Jesus mounted. Nearly all the

people in the crowd threw their garments down on the road, giving him a royal welcome. Others cut branches from the trees and threw them down as a welcome mat. Crowds went ahead and crowds followed, all of them calling out, "Hosanna to David's son!" "Blessed is he who comes in God's name!" "Hosanna in highest heaven!"

¹⁰ As he made his entrance into Jerusalem, the whole city was shaken. Unnerved, people were asking, "What's going on here? Who is this?"

¹¹ The parade crowd answered, "This is the prophet Jesus, the one from Nazareth in Galilee."

Talk Together:

- ✎ What does the word "obedience" mean to you?
- ✎ What are the risks of obedience?
- ✎ How was Jesus obedient and lived into these risks?
- ✎ Which Old Testament prophecy did Jesus fulfill by riding a donkey, and how does this highlight his purpose as a humble king, rather than a military conqueror?
- ✎ What did the crowds mean when they shouted "Hosanna!" and how did their perception of Jesus as a prophet and king contrast with the city's broader reaction?
- ✎ What is the significance of the people spreading their garments and branches on the road?
- ✎ Why does Matthew characterize the entire city of Jerusalem as being in a "stir?"
- ✎ When have you seen "turmoil" lead to evil? When have you seen "turmoil" lead to good?
- ✎ How can we reconcile the cheering crowds of Palm Sunday with the same crowds demanding crucifixion just days later?
- ✎ How will you approach the unfolding events of this week?

Pray together:

God of all the ages, make us real or make us nothing. As we sing "Hosanna!" bring us to the foot of the cross. As we wave palms, show us your tomb. On this day of praise and passion, help us to hold the tension between life and death and to learn the mystery that you are in both. Teach us to turn our faces toward you and help us to bear witness, that we might testify always to your faithfulness. Through Christ, our Savior. Amen.