

## LENT: JOURNEYING TO THE CROSS

**Sunday of the Passion**

**Palm Sunday**

**March 28, 2010**

**Procession with Palms:**

**Luke 19:28-40**

**Liturgy of the Passion:**

**Isaiah 50:4-9a**

**Psalms 31:9-16**

**Philippians 2:5-11**

**Luke 22:14—23:56 or Luke 23:1-49**

### Holy Thanksgiving Day Parade

Several years ago, I went with my family – for the first time – to the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade. I was an adult, but when I saw all those massive cartoon balloons, there was something that stirred within me. I felt the muscles in my cheeks involuntarily contract and without realizing it, my face was alight with a broad smile. Words were not coming from my mouth, only happy sighs: “oooooh, ahhhhhh,” with an occasional “Oh my!” It was the best parade I had ever witnessed because I was actually THERE and not watching it on television. Spectacular!

Whenever I read the lectionary passage for Palm Sunday (Luke 19:28-40), I filter it through my experience of being at the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade. The streets are lined with people, everyone in the crowd has an excited anticipation, the road is prepared for the party, the transportation is decorated for the rider, and here comes the main event: Jesus riding on a colt. During this Holy Thanksgiving Day Parade, Luke says, “the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying ‘Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!’” (Luke 19:37b-38, *NRSV*).

Palm Sunday is the reprieve in Lent; it is the prelude to the finale. It is a moment of pause in a time of repentance where we shout with joy and sing a new song. Today we join a “multitude of the disciples” and we sing “blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” Richard Foster calls this the *Prayer of Adoration*: “Adoration is the spontaneous yearning of the heart to worship, honor, magnify and bless God.”<sup>1</sup> With childlike wonder we feel the muscles in our cheeks involuntarily contract and without realizing it, our faces alight with a broad smile and we sing “blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” Let it be so. Amen.

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<sup>1</sup> Richard J. Foster, *Prayer: Finding the Heart’s True Home* (San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 1992), pp. 81.

This week's Reflection was prepared by the Rev. K. Jason Coker, an ordained minister with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and pastor of Wilton Baptist Church in Wilton, Connecticut. Visit [www.wiltonbaptist.org](http://www.wiltonbaptist.org) to learn more about the ministries of Wilton Baptist Church.

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**This week we remember to pray for the work of the Bible Societies in: New Zealand** – With thanks to God for the Bible Society staff and supporters, and with prayers for the introduction of E100, a Bible reading resource to help people renew their faith; **Australia** – With thanks to God for the new Bible Society building in Tasmania, the *Jesus All About Life* campaign that is helping Australians engage with Scripture, and *God's Story for the Outback*, a coloring book and CD of songs in English, Kriol, and Pitjantjatjara, which is having a positive impact on indigenous children, and with prayers for Bible engagement projects with chaplains in prisons and hospitals and with Scripture teachers; **East Timor** – With thanks to God for the translation of the Gospel of Luke into Fataluku, and with prayers for the witness and ministry of the churches in East Timor, and for stability in this new nation and for the continued development of infrastructure and services.

**Activity Corner:** Relive the Passion Story  
Supplies needed: Bible, bookmark

Throughout Holy Week, read (or re-read) the story of Jesus' Passion as recorded in Luke's Gospel. Invite a different member of your household to read the assigned passage each day, or consider reading the passages dramatically by assigning parts to members of your household (narrator, Jesus, donkey owner, disciples, Pharisees, Judas, Peter, John, servant girl, Pilate, high priest, chief priests/teachers, two criminals, Roman officer) and encouraging everyone to read the words of the crowd.

Sunday	Luke 19:28-48
Monday	Luke 20:1-26
Tuesday	Luke 22:1-34
Wednesday	Luke 22:35-71
Thursday	Luke 23:1-25
Friday	Luke 23:26-49
Saturday	Luke 23:50-56

**Activity Corner: Palm Cross**

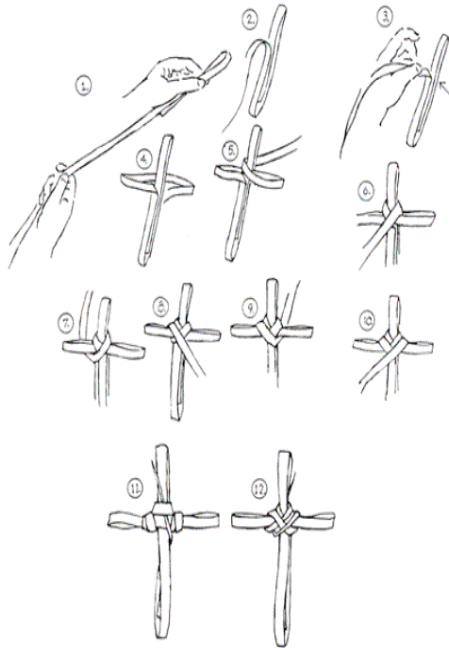
The cross will help us remember the sacrifice of the Passion.

Supplies: One palm branch.

Directions:

1. Fold over, making loop at top.
2. Take long end make loop creating the other end.
3. Bend and crease (at angle) palm, diagonally.
4. Bend around forming cross.
5. Wrap palm around cross.
6. Bring strand around and down.
7. Bring strand under and up.

8. Bring strand over and down.
9. Bring strand under and up.
10. Bring strand over and down.
11. Turn cross over to back and place the end of the palm underneath as shown in the picture.
12. Front view. (Finished Craft)



[This activity was found on the website of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern).]

**Read the account of Jesus' triumphal entry in all four Gospels.**

Matthew 21:1-11

Mark 11:1-11

Luke 19:28-40

John 12:12-19