

### Preparation

- Music / songs** e.g. Ride on, ride on in majesty; 'Hosanna' from Jesus Christ Superstar
- Resources** Palm branches; cut - outs of a cloak; writing materials
- Focal Point** Purple cloth; candles, picture depicting Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem, riding on a donkey.
- Arrangement:** Readers chosen for a shared reading of the Gospel text; children each with a palm branch stand in small groups ... prepared to mime the scene as it unfolds.

### Assembly:

**Introduction** The most solemn week of the Christian year, Holy Week, is the week leading up to Easter. It is the week during which all Christians particularly remember the last week of Jesus' life. Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday. This morning we shall remember and celebrate this great event; how Jesus came into Jerusalem, riding on a donkey; in peace and unafraid of his enemies.

Invite the children to process around the room waving their "palm braches" and singing an appropriate hymn or song.

### Opening Prayer

Dear Jesus, we thank you! You did not enter your holy city Jerusalem on the back of a war horse, but humbly and on a donkey. You knew that you were surrounded by enemies, yet you came in peace.

We pray today that your 'kingdom may truly come' so that your people can live in peace. Watch over us this Holy Week and draw us nearer to yourself in faith, hope and love.



*The Damascus Gate entrance to Old City of Jerusalem*

*View of Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives*



### The Word of God Mark 11: 1 - 11

'As Jesus and his disciples approached Jerusalem, they came to the towns of Bethpage and Bethany, on the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent two of them on ahead. 'Go into that village over there,' he told them, 'and as soon as you enter it, you will see a colt tied there that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks what you are doing, just say, 'The Lord needs it and will return it soon.'

The two disciples left and found the colt standing in the street, tied outside a house. As they were untying it some bystanders demanded, 'what are you doing untying that colt?' They said what Jesus had told them to say and they were permitted to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their garments over it and he sat on it. Many

in the crowd spread their coats on the road ahead of Jesus and others cut leafy branches in the fields and spread them along the way. He was in the centre of the procession and the crowds all around him were shouting, 'Praise God! Bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Bless the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Praise God in the highest heaven!'

So Jesus came to Jerusalem and went into the temple. He looked around carefully at everything, and then he left because it was late in the afternoon. He went out to Bethany with his twelve disciples.'

**Quiet Time:** Invite each child to take a cut-out cloak; to reflect on the scene and the story they have just heard and then to write on the cloak a word or a phrase telling what is they pray and wish for - that our world may grow in peace, justice and love.

**Invitation:** Whilst appropriate music is played, each child is invited to place her/his cloak at the focal point and at the feet of Jesus ....

**Conclusion:** Each child is invited to share her/his word or phrase .....

- Pray the Lord's Prayer together
- Exchange a sign of peace
- Final Song:

