

Palm Sunday

The great Jewish holiday, called Passover, was drawing near. The city of Jerusalem was full of people who had come from all parts of the country for the holiday. The streets were crowded with people hurrying to the temple. It was spring and the trees had fresh, green leaves.

Jesus Christ and His disciples were also going to Jerusalem for the holiday. Jesus knew that the time was coming when He would have to suffer and die. He also knew that all this must happen in Jerusalem. As they were approaching the city, Jesus said to two of His disciples: "Go into the town ahead and, as you enter it, you shall see a donkey and a colt tied to a door. Untie them and bring them to Me. If anyone asks you why you untie them, tell them it is because the Lord needs them."

The disciples obeyed, and as they came to a road crossing they saw the donkey and the young colt tied to a door. They did as Jesus told them and brought them to Jesus Christ. Then Jesus rode the colt to Jerusalem.

Very soon among the holiday crowds in the streets of Jerusalem the rumor spread: "The Lord is approaching Jerusalem. He is the promised Savior. He will be our King." The people hurried to the city gates. They hurried along the road. More and more people joined the crowd. There were children running among the grown-ups. Everyone was asking: "Where is the Lord? Where is the Savior?"

Some important Jewish people came up to Jesus and said: "Master, tell Your disciples to stop this noise." But Jesus answered them: "I tell you, if these people will stop shouting and being glad, then the stones themselves, which you see there, will cry out."

The crowd pressing around Jesus was slowly approaching Jerusalem. They were coming down a hill, and there before them lay the beautiful city shining in the sun. Jesus looked at

the city sadly. He knew, even now, that in a few days the people of Jerusalem would turn against Him. But the people surrounding Him did not know this. They followed Jesus rejoicing and singing until He entered the temple.