



Picture adapted from
monday mandela

Spend a little time studying the picture then, if you would like to, colour it in making it as muted or vibrant as you wish.

In the passage below we hear God's voice coming down from heaven. Some heard this as thunder others as an angelic voice but Jesus tells the people this message was for them. He goes on to explain that his dying on the cross will be a magnet for all people. Before this we hear that some Greeks, coming to join the temple worship, wished to meet Jesus. Jesus recognises that the time for his passion is close. He tells his followers that, as in nature wheat reproduces its own kind, death was essential for further life. He applies this to himself - his death would produce life for many. Jesus tells us 'listen carefully, this is important'. If you are in a group you might like to discuss how we hear God speaking to us today.

Jesus, as wholly human, longs to be relieved of his impending ordeal. But his entire mission is to save the people and further glorify God's name. Think of times when you have had to make difficult decisions. What helped you make them? If the right decision made things difficult for you, how did you cope with that? And then live it out?

Is God speaking to you through the picture and the words below?

BIBLE PASSAGE: (adapted from) John 12:20-32 '

Some Greeks coming to worship at the Feast sought out Jesus. Jesus said, "It's time. The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified."

"Listen carefully: Unless a grain of wheat is buried in the ground, dead to the world, it will remain a grain of wheat. But buried, it sprouts and reproduces itself many times. Similarly, anyone who holds on to life, just as it is, destroys that life. But if you let it go, reckless in your love, you'll have it forever. "If you want to serve me, follow me. Then you'll be where I am, and ready to serve, the Father will honour you."

"Right now I am shaken, but I am not going to say, 'Father, get me out of this'. This is why I came. I'll say, 'Father, put your glory on display.'"

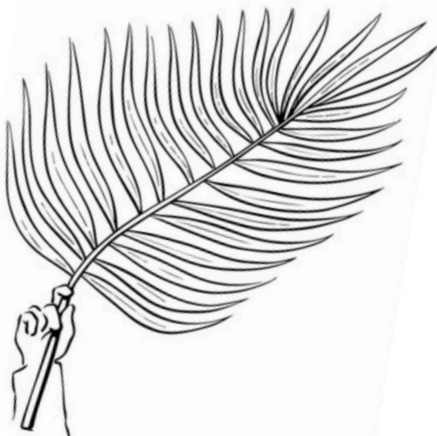
A voice came from the sky: "I have glorified it, and I'll glorify it again."

The listening crowd said, "Thunder!" Others said, "An angel spoke to him!"

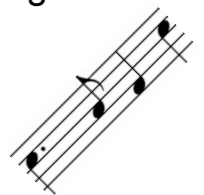
Jesus said, "The voice didn't come for me but for you. The world is in crisis. Satan rules now but will be thrown out. As I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to me."

The Jewish people were expected to go to the Temple in Jerusalem to celebrate three Feasts - The Passover, the Feast of Tabernacles and the Feast of Weeks. At their simplest these all celebrate freedom and provision, give by God. Psalm 118 tells us that people other than Jews could join in these Feasts.

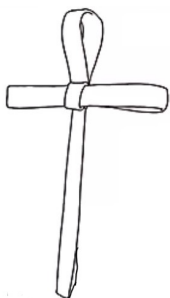
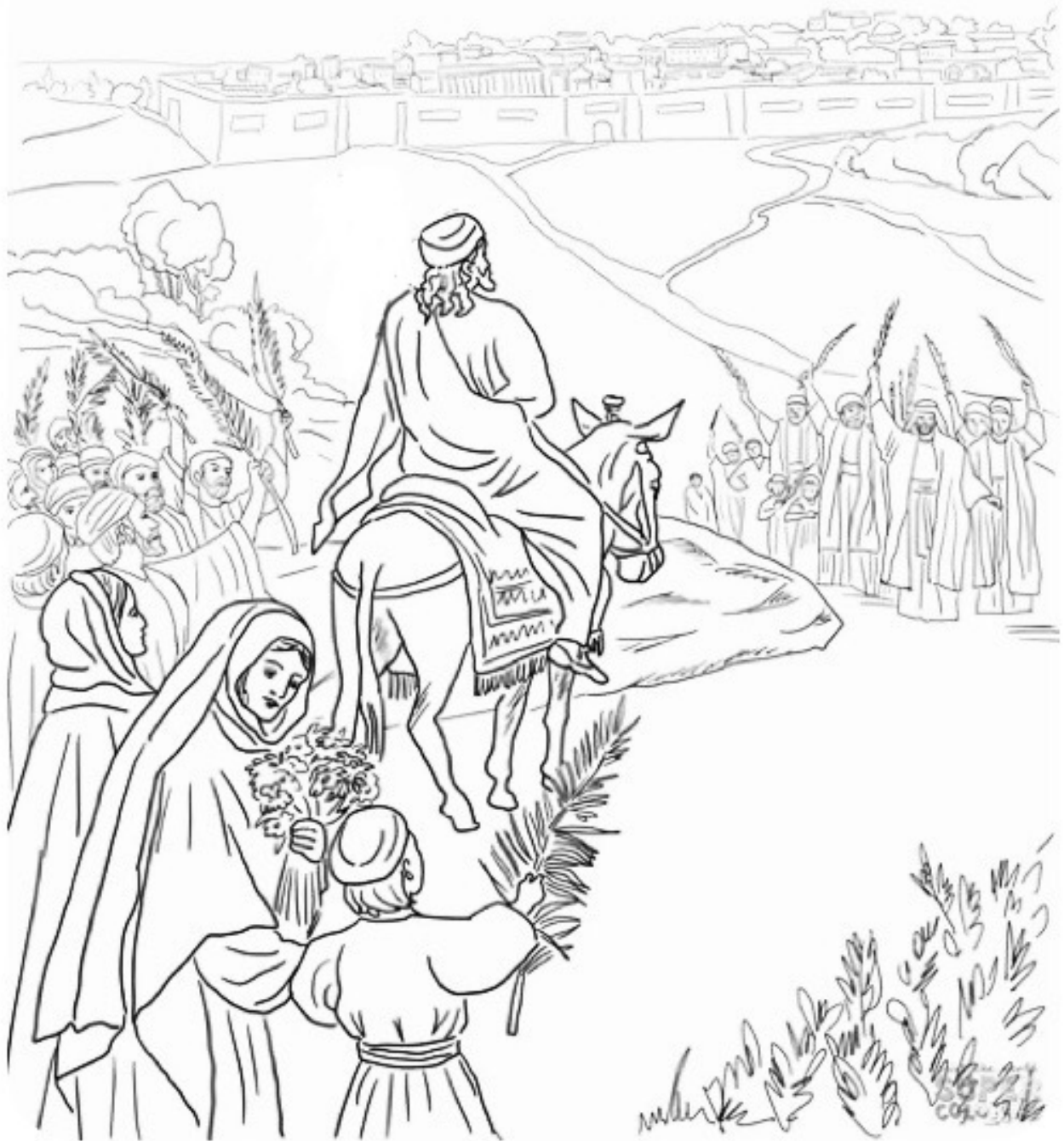
Jesus and his disciples were approaching Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. Some Greeks were amongst a huge crowd. They may have been involved in Jesus' procession into the small, walled city. Waving palm branches and singing Psalms was part of the pilgrimage up to the Temple. Now this was being used in a spontaneous support of Jesus, a popular teacher and healer. King David had once entered Jerusalem on a borrowed donkey and the scriptures stated that a future king would similarly enter the city and set the prisoners free. Knowing this and with the crowds chanting 'Hosanna' (meaning save us - a plea for help) the, already jittery, leaders will have become really worried both for their own position and also for fear of destabilising the uneasy truce of living under Roman occupation.



As you colour in the Palm Sunday picture, below, you might like to think about your own response to Jesus. And then colour in the palm throng and join in with the crowd singing



along with them.



PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, thank you that you always listen to our prayer. We often do not know what lies ahead of us but, as Jesus journeyed with the crowd towards Jerusalem, journey with me and all those I love. In Jesus name. Amen

Bible in Pictures is produced by the Revd. Janet Parker, in the Diocese of Ely, to help by being a Ministerial Presence in challenging times. A new picture should go up every two weeks and can be found at:

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