

Jesus our Triumphant King Rides a Donkey into Jerusalem
Palm Sunday Celebration, about 5 minutes, from Luke 19:28-44

Participants (*No need to memorize lines; the aim is to relive sacred events, not to perform*)

Thomas

Peter

Voice (*of Jesus*)

Pharisee

Prompter Shout a brief line, and Echoes repeat it.

Echoes Children and all adults who want to take part. Echoes need no script.

- Thomas Peter, I warned Jesus that we'd all die if we went into Jerusalem.
- Peter But here we are, Thomas, descending this Mount of Olives into the city, where the religious leaders intend to kill him.
- Thomas And us, too, probably.
- Prompter & Echoes It won't be long now.
- Peter Jesus knows that he's stepping into their trap.
I guess that's why he let Mary anoint him for his burial with perfume.
- Thomas The aroma of that priceless nard still lingers on him.
We're getting close. I'm scared, Peter.
- Peter I am, too, Thomas. It gets more dangerous with every step we take!
- Prompter & Echoes It's too risky!
- Thomas Jesus has stopped here on the Mount of Olives.
Has he changed his mind?
- Peter He won't turn back, Thomas. Listen to him.
- Voice Go to that village; you will find a donkey tied,
and a colt that no one has ridden. Untie them and bring them here.
If anyone asks why you're untying them, tell them I need them.
- Peter We go and find them just as Jesus had told us. The donkey greets us.
- Prompter & Echoes Hee haw!
- Peter We release the donkey and colt, and the owner comes running.
He shouts, "Why are you untying them?"
- Thomas The Lord needs them, sir.
I don't know why he prefers a donkey to a horse,
to enter the city of Kings.
- Peter The prophet Zachariah predicted it, Thomas.
- Thomas We bring the colt to Jesus, and throw our coats on it.
Jesus sits on it, and rides down the Mount of Olives.
- Prompter & Echoes Clip clop, clip clop!
- Thomas We are close to Jerusalem now. What will happen?
Oh, oh! Here comes trouble. Those Pharisees are furious.

Pharisee That deceiver's disciples are running to greet him.
Look at the misguided rabble wave palm branches and shout.
Disgraceful!

Thomas His disciples are spreading their coats on the road
to make a path for the King of Kings!

Prompter & Echoes Glory to God in the highest!

Peter Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

Prompter & Echoes Our savior and king!

Pharisee This is too much! I'll tell that brazen Nazarene to stop this scandal.
You there, riding on that jackass – rebuke your disciples!

Voice I tell you, if they become silent, the stones will cry out!

Prompter & Echoes Hosanna!

Thomas Jesus rides on, and stops to look sorrowfully down on Jerusalem.

Prompter & Echoes He is weeping!

Voice Jerusalem, Jerusalem!
If you'd only known, you could have won peace this day!

Prompter & Echoes God's peace is hidden from you!

Peter How sad!

Voice Your enemies will barricade you on every side.
They will level you to the ground and your children within you;
they will not leave one stone upon another.

Thomas Oh no! Did you hear that, Peter?

Peter Yes. He foretold the ruin of this great city!

Voice Jerusalem, you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you.

Prompter & Echoes Oh, Jerusalem, Jerusalem!

Peter For months Jesus has been announcing his Kingdom,
getting ever closer to Jerusalem where his journey would end.
Now we have arrived.

Prompter & Echoes His time has come!