

Hosanna!

Inside

Narrator: It was Passover time! Jerusalem was full of people coming to celebrate the Passover. Passover was the time when the Jews remembered how God had led them out of slavery in Egypt... They came to Jerusalem to celebrate...

Everywhere you looked there were crowds of people. Some had come long distances to be in Jerusalem.

But Jerusalem was an occupied city in an occupied country. It was the Romans who were in charge... *(Roman soldiers march down the aisle)*

The Jews longed to be free. They longed for the Messiah, God's chosen one, who would come and set them free... When would he come? Would he ever come?

Meanwhile the Jews continued to worship God in the temple. The priests were in charge of the temple. They told the Jews how to worship, and how to live their lives... The priests were the most powerful people in Jerusalem. *(Priest walks down aisle)*

(Make way music started)

What's happening? What's all that noise? Let's go outside and see. Take your branches with you.

(Everyone goes outside, taking branches with them. Make way music continues as they leave)

Outside:

Who is coming? Who are the crowds shouting for?

Look! *(Jesus enters by gate)*

As Jesus came into Jerusalem, people picked branches from the trees and waved them. They threw down their cloaks in front of him. They shouted:

(Voices in crowd shout "Hosanna!" "Here comes the king!" "Hosanna to the Son of David" People wave branches and throw down cloaks (hopefully!))

Jesus makes his way up the path

Priest: *(stepping forward to block Jesus's way)* Hey you! Who do you think you are? Stop! Tell this rabble to be quiet!

Jesus: I tell you if the people were silent these very stones would cry out

(Priest steps back, Jesus continues on his way)

Narrator: Jesus made his way into the temple... where he chased out the money changers... and the children followed him shouting, "Hosanna to the son of David" *(moneychangers rush out of church scattering money and placards)*

But the priests were angry

Priest: Who is this troublemaker? What will he do next? We must do something about him...

Narrator: And they began to plot against him...

(Everyone returns into the church. Make way music while people find seats again)