



Week 13: Today our story is about what we remember this week- Holy Week.

In our Bible, we are going to open to the Gospels section, because the Holy Week story is part of the story of Jesus' life on earth. (And that's what's in the Gospels).

The picture has the "Palm Sunday" part of the story (that's today). Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey. A crowd of people welcome him. The crowd wave palm leaves and lay down a path of palm leaves for Jesus to follow. The city of Jerusalem is full of people because they are visiting for the Jewish holiday of Passover. So many people recognizing Jesus. So many people ready to worship Him - Like a Palm Parade for Jesus.

But you know how it is. Some people become jealous of Jesus. They get nervous watching so many people ready to worship Him. After the Palm Parade, these jealous, nervous people are thinking, "What if Jesus wants to become a king or something? Too many people are following him. This needs to stop." So a bad plan happens. The planners pay one of the disciples to spy on Jesus. On Thursday night, after supper, there will be a signal and Jesus will be arrested.

Thursday comes. Jesus and his disciples are eating their Passover supper. After supper, Jesus shares bread and wine with them in a special way. We call this Thursday part of the story "The Last Supper". We remember this "Last Supper" in Church when we take Communion. After the "Last Supper", Jesus goes out to the garden to pray. There is a signal, and Jesus is arrested.

The very next day, on Friday, there is a sort of trial. Many people are afraid of the power of Jesus. They decide that if they kill Jesus, his power will be gone. They attach Jesus to a big wooden cross so the crowd can watch Jesus die. Dying on a cross is called Crucifixion. Jesus is crucified.

We call this part of the Holy Week story "Good Friday", but in other languages it means "Holy Friday" or "Sacred Friday", or "Passion Friday".

When he is taken down from the cross, Jesus' friends put his dead body into a tomb- a cave with a rock to cover it. It seems like the enemies of Jesus might be right. They think they have taken away the power of Jesus. But the most wonderful and surprising thing happens to prove that Jesus' power is stronger even than death! On the third day (Friday, Saturday, Sunday), when his friends come to visit the tomb, Jesus is alive! This is what we celebrate on "Easter Sunday." At Easter, Jesus proves that he really is the powerful, wonderful, ever-living Son of God.

And Easter Sunday is the end of Holy Week. But it is not the end of the Jesus story at all. The Jesus story is still happening. And we are part of it EVERY week.

