

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew 21:1-11

When Jesus and his disciples came near to Jerusalem,  
he went to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives  
and sent two of his disciples on ahead.

He told them, "Go into the next village,  
where you will at once find a donkey and her colt.

Untie the two donkeys and bring them to me.  
If anyone asks why you are doing that, just say,  
'The Lord needs them.  
' Right away he will let you have the donkeys."

So God's promise came true,  
just as the prophet had said,

"Announce to the people of Jerusalem:  
'Your king is coming to you!  
He is humble and rides on a donkey.  
He comes on the colt of a donkey.' "

The disciples left and did what Jesus had told them to do.  
They brought the donkey and its colt  
and laid some clothes on their backs.  
Then Jesus got on.

Many people spread clothes in the road,  
while others put down branches which they had cut from trees.  
Some people walked ahead of Jesus and others followed behind.  
They were all shouting, "Hosanna for the Son of David!  
God bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hooray for God in heaven above!"

When Jesus came to Jerusalem,  
everyone in the city was excited and asked,  
"Who can this be?"  
The crowd answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

The gospel of the lord.