

## Palm Sunday Readings

### Genesis 32:22-31

In the course of the night, Jacob arose, took the entire caravan, and crossed the ford of the Yabbok River.

After Jacob had crossed with all his possessions, he returned to the camp, and he was completely alone.

And there, someone wrestled with Jacob until the first light of dawn.

Seeing that Jacob could not be overpowered, the other struck Jacob at the socket of the hip, and the hip was dislocated as they wrestled.

Then Jacob's contender said, "Let me go, for day is breaking."

Jacob answered, "I will not let you go until you bless me."

"What is your name?" the other asked.

"Jacob," he answered.

The other said, "Your name will no longer be called 'Jacob' or 'heel-Grabber,' but 'Israel' – 'Overcomer of God'—because you have wrestled with both God and mortals, and you have prevailed."

Then Jacob asked "now tell me your name, I beg you."

The other said, "Why do you ask me my name?" and blessed Jacob there.

Jacob named the place Peniel –"Face of God"—because I have seen God face to face, yet my life was spared."

At sunrise, Jacob left Peniel, limping along from the injured hip.

That is why, to this day, the Israelites do not eat the sciatic muscle that is on an animal's hip socket because Jacob's hip socket was struck at the sciatic muscle.

### Psalm 118

Give thanks to El Shaddai, for She is goodness itself!

Her love has no end!

Let all God's people say, "Her love has no end!"

Let all who serve God say, "Her love has no end!"

Let all who are devoted to God say, "Her love has no end!"

The gates of God's generous goodness are open,  
and I will enter them with thanksgiving!

And the just and faithful will enter by my side.

I will thank El Shaddai for answering me, for making me whole.

She takes a stone that has been rejected and makes it the corner stone of Her purpose!

Her transforming action is marvelous in our eyes!

Today is the day El Shaddai has made!

Be glad in it, and dance for joy,

for God has saved and prospered us!

Blessed are you who come in the name of El Shaddai!

We bless you in the presence of God, who has given us light.

We bear branches of celebration in festal procession.

We make our way to the altar of adoration.

We offer God our heartfelt thanks!

We extol Her glorious name!

We praise Her goodness, singing, "Her love has no end!"

### John:12:12-15

The next day, the great crowd that had come for the Passover feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, so they got palm branches and went out to meet him.

They shouted joyfully,

"Hosanna!

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God—the ruler of Israel!"

Jesus rode in sitting upon a donkey, in accord with the scripture:

"Fear not, O people of Zion!

Your ruler comes to you sitting on a donkey's colt."