

Family Liturgy – Passion (Palm) Sunday (Year A) *Holy Week*

Sunday 5 April 2020

Preparing the prayer space

Place a red cloth on the table or floor (red – the colour for the Commemoration of the Passion of the Lord). Place a cross, wrap some olive/palm/greenery twigs around the cross (the cross always stands for Jesus and the sacrifice he made for us, the palms remind us that on this day we celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem), a bible and candle on it. Light the candle or use a battery-operated candle for safety. Add any other symbols relevant to your family.

Prepare materials

You tube as listed on sheet: Gospel stories and song

Suggested activities: your choice or other related activity on sheet

Print out sheet if required



<http://macaroonoriginal.com/v/2020/02/free-palm-sunday-coloring-sheets-bible-lessons-games-and-page-sheet-colouring-pictures-to.jpg>

Gather around the prayer space as a family

Parent/Caregiver: Today we hear first about Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Jesus is welcomed like a king even though, unlike any king, he is riding a donkey. People warmly welcomed Jesus in this Gospel, but this is in strong contrast with the Passion reading which follows. We join ourselves to Jesus and listen to what he is asking of us today.

Opening prayer: God of welcome, we give thanks to you for sending Jesus to live in Israel. Help us to follow Jesus always and never turn our backs on him. Help us now to listen to your word to us. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gospel: A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew (21: 1-11)

All: Glory to you O, Lord

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 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 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. **All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

(Gospel text © Lectionary for Masses with Children (1993) Catholic Book Publishing Co. New York)

Prayerfully watch the Gospel story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.
<https://youtu.be/z-39h0xYqdE> (3.7 mins) The Story of Easter (The Triumphal Entry)

Gospel reflection and time of sharing:

I wonder what the disciples thought when Jesus sent them to get a Donkey.
I wonder what they said to each other when they found the donkey right where Jesus said they would
I wonder how people felt when they saw Jesus riding the donkey into Jerusalem
I wonder how I would feel if I saw Jesus riding a donkey
I wonder how Jesus felt riding the donkey into Jerusalem
I wonder if all the people in Jerusalem welcomed Jesus into the city

Parent/Caregiver:

Let us pray quietly and listen to Jesus' message to us.
Let us think of how we can welcome Jesus into our lives without reserves.

(pause for a moment)

Let us share with each other, one way in which we will be welcoming to others this week.

Let us now prayerfully watch the Gospel story of Jesus' sacrifice. Jesus' story is being told today so that we can appreciate what Jesus has done for us.

<https://youtu.be/HL8R158Ujp4> (5.21 mins) The story of Easter (Jesus' sacrifice).

Gospel reflection and time of sharing:

I wonder how the disciples felt when Jesus was taken as a prisoner
I wonder why Jesus was called a troublemaker
I wonder how Jesus felt when he was called bad names for no reason
I wonder how Jesus felt when he was blamed for things, he didn't do

Intercessions: Let us now spend some time in prayer asking God to listen to our needs. (*We respond to the prayers by repeating the words 'Lord, hear our prayer'*)

- 1 We pray for our Church: that the Holy Spirit will inspire them to find ways to be welcoming to all people. Lord, hear us.
- 2 We pray for all people in our parishes who are not able to meet together at this time: that they will take up the cross as followers of Christ. Lord, hear us.
- 3 We pray for people in our world who are suffering in any way at this time: that they may find comfort knowing that God suffers with them. Lord, hear us.
- 4 We pray for all people who have died recently and especially for people we know and love: that they will be raised to new life with Jesus. Lord, hear us.

Closing prayer: God of love, we believe in your love – your love created the world. We believe in your love – your love sent Jesus to live with us on earth. We believe in your love – your love sent the Holy Spirit to breathe life through us. Amen.

Closing song: Sing it hosanna - Palm Sunday song (by Michael Mangan)

<https://youtu.be/9XU0ptQH-eo>

Follow up activity suggestions after the time of prayer has come to a close.

- Write a prayer in your prayer journal (special notebook).
Ask the children to write a prayer thanking God for all the good things that are part of our life.
Add to this prayer journal each day.
- Act out the story
- Go to <https://sundayschoolzone.com/?s=PALM+SUNDAY> for various puzzles and activities