

Children's liturgy for Palm Sunday (Year C)

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: red

Props: palms

Song suggestions: Give me joy in heart (722, Laudate)

Welcome: Today is called Palm Sunday, when we remember a time Jesus entered Jerusalem. We have these palms to remind us how the people welcomed Jesus and praised him as their Saviour and King. How do we welcome Jesus in our lives?

Opening prayer: Eternal God, may we always welcome Jesus into our hearts with joy. Help us to see Christ in all people and to make them feel welcome. We make this prayer to you through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gospel: Luke 19:28-40

After Jesus said this, he went on ahead of them to Jerusalem. As he came near Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, he sent two disciples ahead with these instructions: "Go to the village there ahead of you; as you go in, you will find a colt tied up that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If someone asks you why you are untying it, tell him that the Master needs it."

They went on their way and found everything just as Jesus had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying it?"

"The Master needs it," they answered, and they took the colt to Jesus. Then they threw their cloaks over the animal and helped Jesus get on. As he rode on, people spread their cloaks on the road.

When he came near Jerusalem, at the place where the road went down the Mount of Olives, the large crowd of his disciples began to thank God and praise him in loud voices for all the great things that they had seen: "God bless the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory to God!"

Then some of the Pharisees in the crowd spoke to Jesus. "Teacher," they said, "command your disciples to be quiet!"

Jesus answered, "I tell you that if they keep quiet, the stones themselves will start shouting."

(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation® and used with permission, see details below)*

First reading (optional): Philippians 2:6-11

Psalm: Psalm 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24

Gospel acclamation: *everyone stands and sings the acclamation together. For Lent we use an acclamation that doesn't use the word 'Alleluia'.*

Gospel: Luke 22:14 – 23:56 or a shortened version as a Gospel Drama

[Due to space restrictions we have not reproduced this reading of the Passion here. The reflection below focuses mainly on the first gospel reading.]

Gospel reflection: Today is a special day, when we hear two readings from Saint Luke's Gospel. The second one is called the Passion and tells the story of how Jesus was arrested, tried, crucified, died and was buried.

But we also heard another gospel story at the beginning of Mass. Can you remember what happened in that reading?

We heard how Jesus sent the disciples off to borrow a donkey, and to say that, "The Master needs it", if they were asked where they were taking it. How do you think the disciples felt when everything happened just as Jesus said it would?

Then Jesus entered into Jerusalem on this donkey, while the people shouted their praises to God. How do you think Jesus must have felt to hear the people shouting his praises and welcoming him into the city?

Why do you think the disciples were so happy and joyful?

Can you think of a time when someone important or special came to visit you at home or at school? How did you welcome them? Did you sing a song, wave flags, shout and cheer?

What would you do to welcome Jesus if he arrived here today?

Jesus is in all of us, so every time we meet someone and welcome them, we are welcoming Jesus. We are asked by God to treat all people as we would like to be treated.

Can you think of a time when you have not treated someone as you would like to be treated? Have you ever stopped people from joining in your game, or sharing in your toys or in your group? Is that very welcoming?

So, this week how do you think we can make all the people we spend time with at home, at school and elsewhere feel welcome?

And because Jesus is part of every person, we need to also welcome people all over the world. People like Amie and Lombeh in Sierra Leone who we have heard about during Lent. We can hold them in our hearts when we pray. And do what we can to make sure that all people have enough to eat.

And just like the disciples we need to live as Jesus asks us to. This might sometimes mean being a bit different to others, as we try to share God's love and make the world a fairer place for all people. But let's try to do our best. And if anyone asks us why we are doing this we can say "The Master needs it."

Let's try to welcome all people as we would welcome Jesus – with love, kindness and respect.

Intercessions: *You may want to ask the children to offer their own prayers or you can use the suggestions below.*

As we try to be open and welcoming to others, we pray to God together:

For more children's liturgy resources and illustrations see cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy

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We pray for our Church: that she may follow Jesus' example of welcome and love for all. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may look for Jesus within others and treat them as we would wish to be treated. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may welcome all people with respect and love as Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: Christ Jesus, open our hearts so we may sing your praise. Help us to welcome you into our lives, and to see you in all our brothers and sisters throughout the world. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Share the activity sheet with the children and invite them to colour in the illustration. Also invite them to write or draw on the back how they will make all people - including those around the world - feel welcome in the coming week. Encourage the children to do the remaining activities at home during the week.

Invite the children to act out Jesus' triumphant arrival and/or the Passion story. Or, invite them to do a role play to show how they can welcome and respect all people.

Ask the children share all that they have heard and thought about today with the people at home and to try their best to be welcoming to others in the coming week.

For more activities and resources for children this Lent visit cafod.org.uk/primary

*Gospel passage taken from:

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