

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

[Note: There is usually a blessing of the palms and a procession at the start of Mass. The children may be encouraged to take part in this before going off to children's liturgy, so it may be that the first gospel reading (Luke 19:28-40) is heard in church.]

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

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

Gospel acclamation: "Jesus has given his life for us" from *Music for Children's Liturgy of the Word (Year C)* by Christopher Walker with Sr. Paule Freeburg, D.C. (OCP Publications).

Gospel: Luke 22:14 – 23:56 or a shortened version as a Gospel Drama (Sunday Lectionary, Treehaus Publications) Luke 23:1-7, 9-11, 13-26, 32-34, 36-47. Children should read the parts of the Narrator, Priests, Pilate, Crowd, Soldiers, Thief 1, Thief 2, and Soldier.

Gospel reflection: Today is a special day, when we hear two readings from St Luke's Gospel. The second gospel reading is called the Passion and tells the story of how Jesus was arrested, tried, crucified and 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 Rabiul in Bangladesh who we have heard about during Lent. We can hold him in our hearts when we pray. If we can, we also can give some of what we have to make sure that Rabiul and people who are poor have enough to eat and can have hope for a fairer world.

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:

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

Ask the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and to write or draw on the back how they will make all people - including those around the world - feel welcome in the coming week.

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

Ask the children to tell their family all that they have heard and thought about today 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

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

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