

Passion (Palm) Sunday Year A –5th April 2020

Introduction

Today is Passion (Palm) Sunday. We remember when Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem by crowds and hailed as King, which led to the Chief priests and the Pharisees demanding His death by crucifixion. We reflect on the account of His Passion and death on the cross.

We are now preparing to enter into Holy Week a time when we have the Easter Triduum - Holy Thursday (where we remember the Last Supper where Jesus instituted the Eucharist), Good Friday (when Jesus was crucified and died on the cross) and Easter Sunday (when we celebrate Jesus' Resurrection and victory over death). Ask the children to reflect on their Lenten journey and consider the things they have done over the past weeks that have brought them closer to Jesus.

Make the Sign of the Cross – a sign of the love God has for us. (This is optional, as we have already done this at the start of Holy Mass, but for young children it helps to demonstrate and practice how to do this correctly.)

Light the candles on the table next to the Lectionary. An adult lights the candles).

(After a procession of palms, there is an Opening Prayer and Liturgy of the Word. It is presumed that the children participate in the blessing of the palms and procession).

Penitential Act

Ask the children to think how they have behaved in the past week. Ask them if they have always been kind and helpful to others, obedient to their parents, listened to their teachers etc.

We are sorry, truly sorry,

Heal us Lord, in Your love. (sung to tune of Frere Jacques)

Help us to do better. Help us to be kinder. Forgive us, forgive us!

NO GLORIA

All stand to welcome the Gospel singing the **Gospel Acclamation:**

Praise to You Christ,
King of glory,
For our sins
Crucified, (same tune)
Raised high by the Father,
Named above all others,
Praise to You,
Christ our King.”

Gospel

Select the correct Gospel from the Children’s Lectionary. This week it’s on pages 38-41, Passion (Palm) Sunday, in the Book of Readings. The Lectionary Adapted for Children.” (Year A)

Matthew 27:11-54

“A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew”.

Explain and demonstrate – make three crosses: one on your forehead, one on your lips and one on your heart (in this way we think God’s word, speak God’s word and keep God’s word in our hearts) **as we say together “Glory to You, O Lord.”**

Read the Gospel aloud to the children. At the end say: **“The Gospel of the Lord”**.

All reply: **“Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ”**. Ask everyone to be seated.

Lead a Discussion on the Gospel

Explain to the children that there are two Gospel Readings today- one is the Passion where we hear how Jesus was crucified and died. The other involves a procession with Jesus riding on a donkey and lots of palms.

Ask the children what they know about Palm Sunday and why we carry palms through the Church.

In the Gospel Jesus rode through Jerusalem on a donkey. People waved palms at him as he rode through. A donkey was not seen as a very noble animal. Why do you think Jesus chose this animal? (There may not have been much choice back then and it showed that Jesus was not too good for anything or anyone, we are all the same. He was humble).

The people throw palms at Him. Why do you think they did this? (They were showing their respect, they were singing Hosanna. Just like the hymn "Sing Hosanna, the children may have heard this sung today).

Ask the children how they welcome someone special to their house (Make an effort, tidy up, offer biscuits etc.)

Discuss with them how we also welcome Jesus with the same joy in our lives today. (We pray in thankfulness, we tell others about him and we try to live our lives in a way that pleases him)

As we come to the end of our Lenten journey discuss with the children how special Holy Week is and the events that will take place- including Good Friday.

As Liturgy may be longer today because of the Passion, it is a good idea to reflect on the Stations of the Cross with the children, allow them to participate in them and teach them the responses. The children's "Stations of The Cross" are also in the Children's Liturgy Resource section of the Archdiocesan Website. It is a lovely devotion, and one that the children can fully participate in.

Prayers of the Faithful (optional/ time dependent)

You may wish to prepare some of these yourselves or ask the children for their prayers. Here are some suggestions for today:

Lord Jesus, help us to try our best during Lent to come closer to You by **praying** to You - remembering to tell You that we love You, that we are sorry for our faults and also to thank You for all the love that You show us.

Lord, in Your mercy.

All reply: **“Hear our prayer.”**

Lord Jesus, help us to try our best during Lent to **fast** by giving up something that we like and to show **charity** by not being selfish and being kind and generous to others especially those who have less than we have.

Lord, in Your mercy.

All reply: **“Hear our prayer.”**

Closing Prayer

Lord, help us to show your love in our lives by welcoming all those we meet today, tomorrow and always. Open our hearts.

Amen.

Now ask for volunteers for the Offertory Procession. After the procession, children return quietly to sit with their families in church.