



## Sunday Gospel Background

The first Gospel and procession of Palm Sunday recall how the people of Jerusalem welcomed Jesus. The Mass that follows includes the Gospel of the Passion. This Sunday also begins Holy Week, as we follow the last days of Jesus' life on earth. On Holy Thursday, we remember Jesus' Last Supper with his Apostles. On Good Friday, we remember his Death on the Cross. On Holy Saturday, we remember his body in the tomb. We celebrate the joy of his Resurrection on Easter. Learn the times of Holy Week liturgies at your parish and make plans to attend as a family in whatever way you are able—online or in person.

**Editor's Note:** *Good News* places the Gospel into three separate parts this week. You may wish to spread the Gospel portion of your lesson across three days, proclaiming one part each day.

## Share Experiences

Check off the boxes as you complete each part of the lesson.

- Pray together:** "Jesus, thank you for bringing us together. We welcome you into our hearts and into our lives. Help us to welcome others as you welcome us today. Amen."
- Warm-Up Activity • Celebrations and Special Guests** Talk about ways your family has celebrated special events such as birthdays and graduations while you have stayed at home. **Ask:** What do you like best about our family celebrations? What do you miss most about celebrating with others? Talk about the people you look forward to inviting to your home. **Ask:** How will we get ready? *Prepare special foods, clean, put clean sheets on guest bed, display things you'd like your visitor to see.* **Ask:** How will you welcome visitors? *Greet them at the door, hug them, make a welcome sign, offer them a chair or food/drink or both, spend time with them to let them know they are special.*

## Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Activity • Gospel Warm-Up** Explain to your child that Palm Sunday is the only Sunday on which we hear *two* Gospels at Mass. You will break the second Gospel into two parts here. Encourage your child to pay attention to the different feelings and moods of the people in the Gospel readings you share.
- Sunday Gospel, Part 1 • Jesus Comes to Jerusalem (page 1)** Together, read the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem. Discuss the feelings of the people, why they put leafy branches on the road and shouted, "Hosanna," which originally meant "Save us, please" and came to mean "Hooray! Salvation has come!" Invite your child to color the *Hosanna* with joyful colors.
- Catholic Faith Word • Holy Week (page 2)** Read aloud the definition of *Holy Week* on page 2. Explain that Palm Sunday is the first day of Holy Week—the most important week of our Church Year.
- Sunday Gospel, Part 2 • Jesus Shares a Meal with His Friends (page 2)** Have your child color the border pictures on page 2. Share the individual speaking parts to dramatize Jesus' story. Take turns leading the call and response with your child.
- Discuss the *Know* questions related to this Gospel.** 1. *Eucharistic Prayer.* 2. *The Eucharist (also Holy Orders).*



- **Sunday Gospel, Part 3 • Jesus Is Arrested and Put to Death (page 3)** Share the speaking parts as you read through the Gospel drama. Invite other family members to take parts if they're available. **Ask:** What did Jesus' friends do? *Slept when Jesus asked them to stay awake, Judas betrayed him, Peter denied him, most everyone else ran away.* **Ask:** Who in this story recognizes who Jesus really is? *Roman soldier.*
- **Connecting Gospel and Doctrine (page 4)** Read "We Celebrate Holy Week." Point out the change in people's feelings about Jesus as you move through the events of Holy Week.



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 48. Look at the picture of the Rosary and share what you know about this devotion, or invite your child to do so. *The Rosary is a Gospel prayer that helps us think and pray about important events in the lives of Jesus and Mary. These events are grouped into four Mysteries—Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and Glorious. Each mystery contains five events.*

**Ask:** What does the word *sorrow* mean? Your child might associate it with the more familiar word, *sorry*. Explain that *sorrow* means "deep sadness." **Ask:** What events in Jesus' life would have caused Jesus and his followers to feel deep sadness? Tell your child that the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary help us reflect on these very sad events in the life of Jesus. Read page 49 together. Help your child understand any words that are difficult.

Lead your child in praying one of the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary together. Invite your child to follow along by placing a finger on each bead on page 48.

Have your child turn to page 57 and read about the Triduum. Invite your child to color this section of the calendar.

*Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Good News, page 4.*

## Live the Gospel

- **Closing Prayer • We Adore the Cross (page 4)** Finish this session by adoring the cross as Catholics do at the Good Friday service. Use a cross you have in your home. If you do not have one, invite your child to draw or color a simple wooden cross. You may wish to begin by covering your cross with a piece of good quality fabric. Spend a few moments in silence while the cross remains covered. Then uncover it slowly and with reverence. Decide which of you will take the Leader part. Your child may genuflect or bow before the cross as a sign of respect and love.

Note that the dogwood blossoms on this page are a sign of Jesus' Passion and Death. Legend says that the wood used for Jesus' Cross came from the dogwood tree. Since then, the blossoms of the dogwood bear marks of Jesus' wounds.



## Parent Resources

For weekly videos, assessments, and more, scan this code or go to [pflaumweeklies.com/family](https://pflaumweeklies.com/family)  
Visit [www.usccb.org/bible/readings](https://www.usccb.org/bible/readings) to read this Sunday's Scripture