

## Sunday Gospel Background

On Palm Sunday, we remember Jesus coming to Jerusalem, where crowds welcomed him. This begins our annual observance of Holy Week. This Sunday has two Gospels—Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem before the procession of palms and the Passion account according to Mark. We share the first Gospel in *Promise*. During Holy Week, we follow the last days of Jesus’ life on earth. Find out about Holy Week liturgies in your parish and attend as a family in whatever way you are able—online or in person.

## Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** “Jesus, thank you for our family. Help us welcome others as you welcome us. Amen.”
- Story • Welcome, Maria!** A coloring page to accompany this story is available at [gospelweeklies.com/lesson-updates](http://gospelweeklies.com/lesson-updates). Tell the following story about welcoming someone special:

Dad, Mom, Brad, and Sarah are all waiting at the airport. They are waiting for a new baby. Her name is Maria. Dad holds a folder of important papers to show the people who are bringing Maria. Mom has the car seat so Maria will be safe in their car on the way home. Brad has a yellow balloon that says, “Welcome, Maria!” Dad had written the message with a big black marker. Sarah holds a teddy bear to give to Maria.

They have been waiting a long time. Finally, people start coming from the plane Maria is supposed to be on. All the people look tired. None of them is carrying a baby. Brad pulls on Dad’s sleeve and asks, “Where’s Maria?” Dad says, “Let’s both close our eyes and say a prayer to ask God to bring Maria

soon.” Brad closes his eyes and prays hard. When he opens them, he sees a baby’s head above the heads of all the men and women. The baby is smiling. “There she is!” yells Brad. Dad and Mom and Brad and Sarah all yell, “Maria!” at the same time. The baby hears them and waves her little arms. The woman holding Maria smiles a big smile. “This is your little girl,” she says as she hands Maria to Mom. Everyone pats Maria and gives her kisses. Then Mom straps her into the car seat. Brad ties the balloon to the seat, and Sarah tucks the teddy bear next to Maria. Brad and Sarah carry the car seat with Maria in it all the way to the parking lot. They drive home full of happiness.

**Ask:** How did the family get ready to welcome Maria? Why is Maria important to her new family?

## Discover Gospel and Doctrine

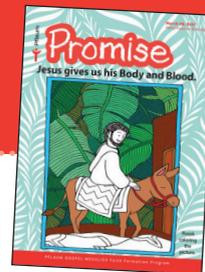
- Sunday Gospel • Welcome Jesus! (page 1)** Invite your child to look at the cover picture as you tell the Palm Sunday Gospel for the procession of palms:

The more Jesus taught, the more friends he made. Many people heard about him and wanted to listen to him. One day, Jesus decided to go to Jerusalem, the capital city of his country and the place where the Temple was. He invited his friends to come along.

When they got to the city gate, Jesus asked two of his friends to find a donkey for him to ride. This was a sign that he was a peaceful person, not a king who was used to riding around in a chariot and making wars. His friends put their

cloaks on the donkey’s back for Jesus to sit on.

People were glad to see Jesus. They crowded around to welcome him like a king. Many people spread their cloaks on the road. Some others cut leafy branches to spread on the road. They did this to make a special path for the donkey to travel on. People ahead of Jesus shouted, “Hosanna!” This is like shouting, “Hooray!” They shouted, “Hosanna! God bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna for God in Heaven above!”



**Ask:** How did people show their love for Jesus? If you had been there, what would you have shouted to welcome Jesus? Invite your child to finish coloring the picture.

- Word of the Week • Holy Week (page 2)** Help your child locate the Word of the Week on page 2. Share this definition: *Holy Week is the week before Easter.* Explain that the Gospel about welcoming Jesus to Jerusalem happens on Palm Sunday—the first day of Holy Week.



- Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 30. Explain that the special meal Jesus shared with his friends is known as the Last Supper, which happened on Thursday of Holy Week. We remember Jesus' Last Supper every Sunday at Mass, in the Eucharist. **Ask:** What do we do before a meal? *Say a prayer to thank God for it.* Find the Blessing Before Meals on page 30. Your child may already know this prayer. If not, help your child learn it by repeating each line after you. Then have your child color the star next to the prayer.

*Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Promise, pages 3-4.*

## Live the Gospel

- Activity • My Holy Week Booklet (pages 3-4)** Invite your child to finish coloring the four pictures. Then help your child fold the page in half to make a booklet. Go through it together as you tell what happens:

**Palm Sunday** The people of Jerusalem welcome Jesus.

**Holy Thursday** Jesus and his friends are at their Last Supper together. Jesus tells them that the bread and wine they share are his Body and Blood. We remember this meal at every Mass (Eucharist, Holy Communion).

**Good Friday** The leaders think Jesus is making himself too much like God and decide he must be killed. Jesus carries his Cross. Jesus dies on the Cross. Jesus asks his Father to forgive these people. His mother Mary and friend John stay by his Cross.

**Easter Sunday** Jesus is risen! He visits his mother and his friends. They are amazed and overjoyed. They share the Good News: Alleluia! Jesus is risen from the dead!

- Activity • Holy Week (page 2)** Read aloud the title on page 2, and the names of these days. **Ask:** Which day comes first? *Palm Sunday.* Direct your child to write a number one in the box above that day's name. Then have your child look at the pictures and draw a line from the day's name to the picture for that day. Continue with the remaining days.
- Closing Prayer** "Dear Jesus, thank you for your love and sacrifice for us. Amen."



## 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