

Jesus Is Welcomed

Allelu!

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

Lesson 24, Kindergarten

Lesson 24 Goal

- Your child will learn about the story of Palm Sunday.

Key Points

- Jesus was welcomed as he entered the city of Jerusalem.
- The people called out “Hosanna!” to Jesus. We sing this in Mass today.



Parent Reflection

The Hebrew word *hosanna* literally means “please save” or “save now.” The Jewish people had been under Roman captivity for many years, and they expected that their long-awaited Messiah would be the leader of a revolution that would end their oppression. Jesus was coming to bring another kind of salvation, and a different brand of peace—salvation of souls and peace in the hearts of the people.

The warm and raucous welcome Jesus received as he entered Jerusalem would be a stark contrast to what would take place later that week, as the people called for his crucifixion. Though he was Messiah and Savior, he was not what the people expected.

In our own lives, it is sometimes easy to verbally express our welcome of Jesus, and even to be enthusiastic about it. However, when following Jesus means something different than we expected, or when he doesn’t save us from those things we wanted saving from, our willingness to welcome him may change. Attachment to our own selfish desires can present a barrier to true welcome of Jesus.

It is important for us to remember that God knows us better than we know ourselves. Let us trust in this God of hope, and welcome Jesus with our whole hearts, as we sing, “Hosanna!”

Reflection Question

In which places in my life do I have yet to welcome Jesus?

Lesson Preparation

Before inviting your child to sit with you for lesson time, prepare all materials.

Materials

- Family Activity Sheet
- crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- green tagboard
- adult scissors (adult use only)
- glue stick
- Activity Master #2 – Saint Page (Keep the saint page from each lesson to gather to-

gether a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

Preparation Steps

- Make sure your child has a copy of Activity Master #2 (included with this lesson).
- Cut 4" palm branches and 18" stems from green tag board.

Gathering

Create a prayerful space. You might place a candle on the table, or set a cross in front of you. Invite your child to join you in quietly preparing for prayer.

Say the following or similar words: "Now that we are in this prayerful space, let us find the quiet in our hearts so we can talk with God."

Sit together for several seconds of shared silence.

Say, "Today, you will lead the prayer. We call this kind of prayer a spontaneous prayer. This means that you are talking to God in your own words. Whatever you want to pray for will be our prayer. Perhaps you will thank God, or ask him for something. Maybe you need to tell Jesus something. You may want to pray for another person or to give praise to Jesus."

Begin in prayer:

Make the Sign of the Cross together or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead: "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

Have your child start the prayer. Guide him or her as needed for this spontaneous prayer to Jesus.

Discovering

Jesus Enters Jerusalem. Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read about Jesus' welcome.

Ask your child, "How would you greet Jesus to your town?"

Turn to the second page of the Activity Sheet. Ask your child the "Ask Me!" questions and review the answers.

Exploring

Use the following activities to enrich your child's understanding of the lesson and of our Catholic faith.

1. Welcome, Jesus! Turn to the main activity of the Activity Sheet (center pages) and invite your child to describe what he or she sees. Give your child crayons or colored pencils. Explain the activity to your child and have him or her complete it.

2. Palm Branches. Invite your child to glue the "palm leaves" onto the "stems" to create a palm branch. Review the story from Discovering and talk about Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

3. The Communion of Saints: Saint Philip.

Show your child the picture of Saint Philip on the Family Activity page and read about him. Then read more about Saint Philip to your child (see below).

Ask your child:

▶ “How did Philip help the man know about Jesus?” (*He explained the Scriptures to him.*)

▶ “The Holy Spirit spoke to Philip. In what ways does the Holy Spirit speak to us?” (*Possible response: when we feel strongly that we should do something that is good, that might be the Holy Spirit speaking to us.*)

Have your child write and draw about Saint Philip using Activity Master #2.

Sending

Pray with your child. Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together, or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead. Pray aloud with your child.

Hosanna in the highest,

Hosanna in the highest,

Hosanna, hosanna

Hosanna in the highest!

Dear Jesus, May we follow your example today and always. Help us to remember you are always with us. Amen.

Saint Philip

On the Road to Gaza

Philip, one of Jesus’ Apostles, was teaching people about Jesus in a place called Samaria. An angel came to him saying, “Go south on the road to Gaza.” Philip did as the angel said.

As Philip was walking, a chariot-wagon passed him. In it rode a man from the country of Ethiopia. He had an important job for the queen, and he had just come from Jerusalem. He was reading as his chariot moved along.

The Holy Spirit came to Philip and said, “Go and join up with that chariot.” Philip started to run. When he caught up, he realized the Ethiopian man was reading from the Bible. Philip said, “Do you understand what you are reading?” The man answered, “I need someone to teach me. Please get in!”

So together they read from the Bible. The

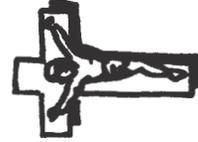
man asked questions, and soon Philip was explaining everything that the Scriptures said about Jesus.

The man listened carefully and liked what he heard. As they traveled, they passed by some water. “I want to be baptized!” the man said. They got out of the chariot and went to the water. Philip baptized the man. When they came up out of the water, the Holy Spirit took Philip away! The man could not see him any more.

Later, Philip went to other places, and everywhere he taught, many, many people came to know and love Jesus.

The Holy Spirit spoke to Philip. When we feel strongly that we should do something that is good, that might be the Holy Spirit speaking to us.

DRAW



**Saint
Philip,
pray for us!**