

Sixth Sunday of Lent – year B

Palm Sunday

Preparation

Read over these: [Psalm 118](#) and [Mark 11:1-11](#). Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump at you. Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yearb/palmsb.htm>

http://archive.episcopalchurch.org/lessonPlans/109452_115876_ENG_HTM.htm

http://www.sermons4kids.com/palm_sunday_parade.html

<http://www.efree.mb.ca/lectionarypuzzles/in-bwmp.htm#lent06>

<http://www.sundayschoolsources.com/lessons/JentersJerusalem.htm>

<http://www.msscrafter.com/newtestament/palmsunday.htm>

Gathering

Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle and candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- Red cloth
- Newsprint and markers
- Psalm phrases from previous weeks
- Print up the following on a strip of white paper in large letters:
“**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God. We will always bless you.**”
- Green paper streamers cut into 1 m (3 ft) lengths
- Markers

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you. Gather around the small table or at the end of one table. With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the candle and the Bible on the cloth. Place the Psalm phrases from the previous weeks on the table. Have ready the Psalm fraction to place on the table after prayer. Light the candle. Pray the following prayer together:

**God be with us on the journey,
Jesus be with us as we learn,
Holy Spirit be with us as we grow. Amen.**

Hold up the Psalm fraction for the children. Read it to them or have a reader in the group do it. Explain that each week during this season they will get a new psalm piece to add to the worship table.

Place the Psalm fraction on the table. Blow out the candle. Give each child a length of the green streamer. Have them print on the streamer with the markers BLESSED IS THE ONE. Ask the children if they have ever been in a parade and what it felt like to be in a parade. If they haven't

been in a parade ask them if they have ever watched a parade and what it felt like to watch the parade. Ask the children what kind of parades they have been in or watched. Explain that in today's story Jesus and his friends take part in a special parade that takes them all the way to the city of Jerusalem. To get ready for the parade, have the children wave around their streamers and say '**Blessed is the One**' as they do that.

Story Time

Materials needed

- The green streamers from earlier, with '**Blessed is the One**' printed on them
- Blanket to throw on the ground.

Instructions

This will be an active story – so try to have room to move around.

Jesus and his friends were getting ready to go to Jerusalem. It was the time of one of the most special feasts for God's people, the Passover, the time to remember when God had freed the people in Egypt and they began their journey to the Holy Land.

Before they came into Jerusalem, Jesus said to his friends, "Go into the village before the city. As you come into the village you will find a colt that has never been ridden. Untie and bring it to me. If anyone asks you why you are doing this, tell them that Jesus needs it and will bring it back later."

Jesus friends went as he had told them. They found the colt as Jesus had told them. As they were untying the colt, the owner came out and asked them what they were doing. They answered, "Jesus has need of it and will bring it back later."

The owner of the colt immediately let them take it to Jesus. Jesus' friends took the colt to him. Some of them spread their cloaks on it and Jesus got on the colt. Others spread blankets and cloaks on the ground in front of Jesus.

Have the children spread the blanket out on the ground.

Other people around Jesus and his friends began to do the same thing. Other people took leafy branches from the palm trees and spread them on the ground and started waving them in the air. *Have the children start waving their streamers in the air.*

Then the people started shouting out something amazing. They shouted, "Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" *Have the children wave their streamers and shout **Blessed is the one** as they wave them.*

The people continued to shout as Jesus made his way with his friends to the gates of Jerusalem. They shouted, "Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the coming of the kingdom of God! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

*Have the children wave their streamers and shout **Blessed is the one** as they wave them.*

The people followed Jesus into Jerusalem and they continued to shout out to Jesus as they did so.

*Have the children wave their streamers and shout **Blessed is the one** as they wave them and march around the room this time.*

When Jesus came into Jerusalem he went immediately to the temple – the place where his people worshipped God together. After he and his friends had some time to look around they left Jerusalem and went back to Bethany. Jesus knew that this was going to be an important week for him and his friends. Jesus knew that this was just beginning of the journey to the end.

*Have the children wave their streamers and shout ‘**Blessed is the one**’ as they wave them and march around the room this time.*

When they are done have the children put their streamers on the worship table.

Response

Project Idea 1: Leaf Messages

It is a very strong message that the children here about in today's story. This response will be a way for them to share that message with others.

Materials needed

- green construction paper
- scissors
- markers
- palm branch shape at end of lesson
- cardboard tube
- strong tape

Instructions

Copy the palm branch shape at the end of the lesson. Make one for each child. Have them cut them out just on the outer edge of the shape. Trace onto the green construction paper. Have the children look to the shape and cut their leaf using the guide lines from the original – so that they get a palm looking like leaf. As they are cutting their leaves ask the children to think about a message from Palm Sunday that they would like to share with others. When they are done cutting have them print their messages on their leaves. Help the children who are not writers yet. When they are done that get them to attach their leaf to the cardboard tube with the strong tape.

Project Idea 2: Holy Week Booklet

Holy Week is the most significant week in the Christian calendar. This response will help the children to share this week with their families.

Materials needed

- Holy Week activity chart at end of lesson
- red construction paper
- markers
- Easter stickers
- scissors
- stapler and staples

Instructions

Make enough copies of the Holy Week activity chart at the end of the lesson so that each child has one. Cut the red construction paper into four equal pieces. Give each child a copy of the chart and eight of the pieces of red construction paper. Explain to the children that the week

between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday is called Holy Week and that they are going to make an activity booklet to share with their families. Read over the activities together so that the children understand what they will be doing. Get the children to cut apart the activity chart and glue each day onto a separate piece of construction paper. When they have completed, ask them to put the six sheets of construction paper they have prepared, to put one under and one above the pile. Staple them together to make a booklet.

Project Idea 3: Psalm Poster

As a way of reviewing the learnings of the past several weeks the children create a poster that uses the psalm phrases from each of the weeks of Lent.

Materials needed

- Psalm phrases from all the weeks of Lent
- poster board
- glue
- scissors
- magazines
- markers

Instructions

Lay out the psalm phrases from the worship table where all the children can see them. With the children's help read them over. As they read them over ask the children if they can remember which week they were for and what they remember from that week. If possible have the children choose one or two of the phrases, then have them look through the magazines for an image that goes with their phrase. Work together to place their images and psalm phrases on the poster board with the glue. Have the children come up with a title for their poster and then find a place to put it up so that others can see their work.

Closing

Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candles. Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

**Holy God, lead us to share your love with others,
Loving Jesus, lead us to be brave with others,
Holy Spirit, lead us to follow as children of God.
Amen.**

Palm Branch Shape

