

General Church Education



Palm Sunday: Welcoming the Lord as King

Luke 19:28-40; 22:31-34, 54-62

Lesson 32

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 2: The Lord Is Our Shepherd

For ages 7-8 years

Palm Sunday: Welcoming the Lord as King

Luke 19:28-40; 22:31-34, 54-62

Ideas for Parents & Teachers

In the familiar story of Palm Sunday the Lord was received with great joy and expectation. Then came the remarkable contrast when the crowds turned against Him and even Peter denied knowing Him. The Lord knew what would happen. He knew this celebration would be short-lived. Some of the people wanted an earthly king to give them worldly power, fame and fortune. But He came to bring spiritual order and peace to all people by bearing witness to truth. As He rode into Jerusalem, the King of heaven was cheered as nothing more than the king of the Jews, but He did not come to fulfill natural ambitions. He came to teach us to lay up treasures in heaven, to love even our enemies. The Lord went on to achieve total victory over the hells, removing everything merely human in Himself so that He could rise in glory as our Lord and our God. Children can begin to understand the importance of this story and the peace and joy that the Lord wills for all of us through spiritual freedom.

Ideas for Children

- The Lord opened the way to heaven by freeing people from the hells and destroying the power of evil spirits.
- People can be blinded to truth by evil.
- The Lord as King is the Divine Truth ruling our lives.

From the Writings

The Lord governs all things, even the most specific, through the truth that goes forth from Him, not in the way a king governs in the world, but in the way God does so in heaven and over all creation. A king in the world only takes care of a country, while his chief ministers and officials take care of matters in particular. It is otherwise with God. God sees all things, knows all things from eternity, provides all things into eternity, and from Himself maintains all things in their order. From this it is clear that the Lord takes not only overall care but also particular and individual care of all things, unlike a king in the world. His regulation of things is achieved directly by means of God's truth that is going forth from Himself and also indirectly by means of heaven. The indirect regulation by means of heaven comes by way of heaven from Him. *Arcana Coelestia* 871

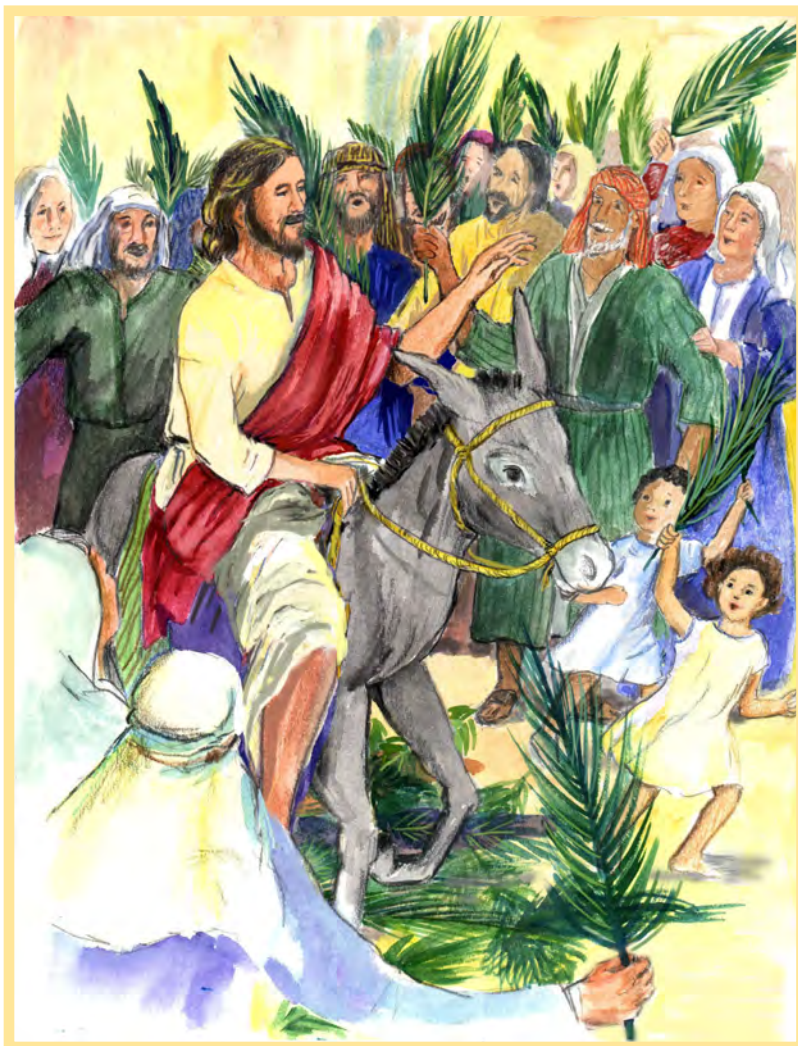
The Lord is characterized as King and as Priest. A king or the office of king means holy truth, and a priest or the office of priest means holy good. As King the Lord governs every single thing in the universe from Divine Truth; but as Priest He does so from Divine Good. Divine Truth is the order itself of His kingdom existing everywhere, all the laws of which are truths, or eternal verities. Divine Good is the very essential of order, every aspect of which is an expression of mercy. It raises people up toward heaven. Both of these—Divine Good and Divine Truth—are attributed to the Lord. See *Arcana Coelestia* 1728

Palm Sunday: Welcoming the Lord as King

During the Lord's life on earth, great multitudes of people followed Him and gathered together to hear the words He spoke wherever He went. They knew that this was no ordinary man. He was gentle and kind and wise. The people could feel His love for them. His teachings healed their troubled minds just as His touch healed their sick bodies. Jesus traveled around the country preaching about heaven, teaching people how to live rightly and healing those who were sick.

Gradually the Israelitish leaders, the Scribes and Pharisees, became jealous of the Lord's popularity. They had added their own interpretations and regulations to the Scriptures so that people did not know what the Word taught. They were selfish and afraid that they would lose their power. Selfish people hate anyone who keeps them from getting what they want.

Our story today is about the Lord's last week on earth. It shows us quite clearly why the Lord came to live among people. The power of the hells had grown so strong that even the people who wanted to live a good



life did not know how. When evil is so strong, people cannot see what is true anymore. They cannot choose the right way if they do not know what is right. The Lord came to break the power of evil spirits and give people the freedom to choose to do what is right if they wished.

Palm Sunday

The Lord and His disciples were going to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. The Passover Feast was very important. It reminded the Israelitish people of how their ancestors were brought out of slavery in Egypt and how Moses led them back to the land of Canaan many, many years before. As Jesus came near the city, He asked His disciples to get something for Him.

Read Luke 19:28-40 to find out what it was.

What did the disciples bring to the Lord? (A donkey's colt on which no one had ever sat.) Why was the colt's owner willing to let them take it? (The disciples told the owner that the Lord needed it.) What did the disciples put on the colt and also spread on the path? (Their clothes.)

Jesus rode on the colt of a donkey because kings rode on donkeys. People knew that this meant He was coming as a king. As He came into Jerusalem more and more people gathered in the streets and welcomed Him with joyous shouts. Other gospels say they waved palm branches and spread them in His path. That is why this day is called Palm Sunday. Palm branches are a symbol of victory. The people thought He had come to take command of their fighting men and overthrow the Roman rulers. They welcomed Him as their earthly king. They did not know that He was the King of heaven and had come to save them from the power of the hells.



Some of the Pharisees said the Lord should tell His disciples to stop calling Him a king. The Pharisees were jealous that so many people followed Jesus. They plotted to get rid of Him.

Can you imagine how happy the disciples were to see the Lord welcomed as King? But even His own disciples did not completely understand what the Lord was doing. They thought He would use His power to take control of the city and country. They became confused when a few days later the Lord allowed Himself to be taken prisoner. Jesus knew what was going to happen. He had tried to warn His disciples to be faithful and strong, but He knew how weak people can be. The Lord even told Peter, His most enthusiastic disciple, that he would deny that he knew Him before that night was over.

Read Luke 22:31-34. Remember that Peter had two names, Simon and Peter. How many times did the Lord say that Peter would deny knowing Him? (Three.)

The rooster would crow with the first morning light. The night before that happened would be long, especially for Peter. The Scribes and Pharisees had succeeded in turning many of the people against Jesus. An angry group of people came with soldiers to arrest Jesus as He prayed

in the Garden of Gethsemane after eating the Passover meal with His disciples. When the Lord was arrested and taken prisoner, Peter followed at a distance to see what would happen to Him. In the courtyard of the High Priest's house, some people recognized Peter as one of the Lord's disciples. Peter was so afraid and confused about what was happening that he would not admit that Jesus was his friend. Let's read that part now and see if you can find the three times that Peter denied he knew the Lord.

Read Luke 22:54-62. How do you think Peter felt when he heard the rooster crow? (He was very sad and "wept bitterly.") When he heard the rooster crow, Peter remembered that the Lord had said that he would deny knowing Him three times that night. He was ashamed. He had not expected that the Lord would be arrested and taken away. Peter had expected the Lord would rule as a king.

The Lord as King of Our Lives

What is it like to have a king in your life? People who live under a king want their king to be a good leader. People serve their king obeying the laws of the kingdom. A good king is loved and honored by his people.

We could not find a better King than the Lord. The Lord is truly worthy of our love and honor. What He says is Divine Truth. He is telling us the way to heaven. Whatever He does is from Divine Love. He cares so much about each of us and wants all people to come into the happiness of heaven. He came to earth so that people would no longer be fooled and be blinded to truth by evil and selfishness. His story is written in the Word so that everyone can learn the way to heaven.

We are not all-wise and all-knowing, like the Lord. So sometimes we feel discouraged or sad about things that happen to us. It is especially important at times like that to remember the wise and loving King who rules heaven and earth.

Discussion Questions

- Is there a time you were afraid and tried to deny the truth? How can we be strong? (Only the Lord can help us be strong, without Him we are nothing. So remember to think of Him and His power for good when you are afraid.)
- In what ways can you welcome the Lord into your life as your King? (Answers may include learning about the Lord so that we can obey Him, believing in Him and having the courage to acknowledge Him as our spiritual leader ["I will do this because the Lord says to."], following His example of love and kindness in how we treat others.)
- How can we remember to treat the Lord as our King? (Read His Word, do not use His name in vain, try to obey Him, etc.)

Activity Overview | Palm Sunday: Welcoming the Lord as King

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heav-en. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Luke 24:50-53

Song

Shout the Glad Tidings

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-shout-the-glad-tidings/>

Activities

Choose one or two.

- Activity 1 | Welcome the Lord into Your Life
- Activity 2 | Make a Palm Branch
- Picture to color

Additional Activity Ideas

- Watch *Jesus Rides into Jerusalem*, a video telling the story of palm Sunday at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-jesus-rides-into-jerusalem/>

Activity 1 | Welcome the Lord into Your Life

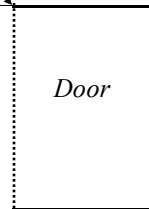
Use this project as a springboard to help children think about welcome the Lord into their lives as King. Children will create a picture of the Lord behind a door that opens and closes to welcome the Lord.

Materials

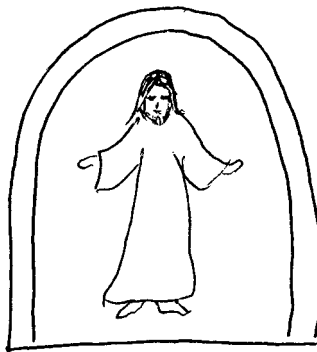
- 1 piece yellow paper
- 1 piece brown paper
- 1 piece white paper *or* picture of the Lord (supplied on next page)
- scissors
- tape
- pencil, crayons, colored pencils or markers

Directions

1. Draw a picture of the Lord on white paper, *or* cut out the picture of the Lord that is supplied on the following page.
2. Using a pencil, draw a door on the brown paper that is large for your drawing of the Lord to fit inside it. Cut along three edges of the door. Fold the fourth side of the door so that it can open and shut.
3. Place the paper with the door in it on top of the yellow paper. Position the picture of the Lord between the two pages so that it shows when you open the door. Glue or tape the picture of the Lord in place. Tape the yellow and brown paper in place.
4. Write “The King of Glory” or “The King of glory shall come in.” (Psalm 24:8) above or below the door.



The King of Glory



A picture of the Lord that can be placed behind the door.



Activity 2 | Make a Palm Branch

Create palm branches to welcome the Lord, as people did many years ago. Decorate a worship area to keep the Lord's Triumphal Entry in mind throughout the Easter season.

Materials

- rectangular pieces of green paper
- scissors
- cardboard to make a stems for the leaves

Directions

1. Fold a rectangular piece of green paper in half lengthwise.
2. Cut out a leaf shape as large as the paper and discard the edges.
3. Keeping the leaf folded, cut from the outside of the leaf towards the center, being careful not to cut the leaf into pieces in the middle.
4. Open the leaf. Cut a stem out of cardboard and attach to the base of the leaf.

