



Liturgy of the Word with Children

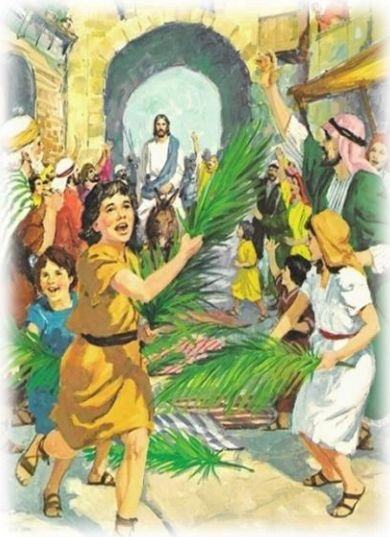
Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, Year C

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Isaiah 50:6-7 Psalm 22 Luke 23:1-49



The Jews were waiting for a king to lead them against the Romans and make them free again.

*When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday,
he was welcomed as this king,
but he came as a king of peace and not to bring war.*

Hosanna !

Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, then look through the preparatory material that follows and familiarise yourself with the Liturgy Outline.

GOSPEL

Luke 23:1-49

(Reader A) Everyone in the council led Jesus off to Pilate. They started accusing him and said, "We caught this man trying to get our people to riot and stop paying taxes to the Emperor. He also claims that he is the Messiah, our king." Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "Those are your words," Jesus answered. Pilate told the chief priests and the crowd, "I don't find him guilty of anything."

(Reader B) But they kept on saying, "He has been teaching and causing trouble all over Judea. He started in Galilee and has now come all the way here."

(Reader A) When Pilate heard this, he asked, "Is this man from Galilee?" After Pilate learned that Jesus came from the region ruled by Herod, he sent him to Herod, who was in Jerusalem at that time.

For a long time Herod had wanted to see Jesus and was very happy because he finally had his chance. He had heard many things about Jesus and hoped to see him work a miracle. Herod asked him a lot of questions, but Jesus did not answer. Then the chief priests and the teachers

of the law of Moses stood up and accused him of all kinds of bad things. Herod and his soldiers made fun of Jesus and insulted him. They put a fine robe on him and sent him back to Pilate. That same day Herod and Pilate became friends, even though they had been enemies before this. Pilate called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people. He told them, "You brought Jesus to me and said he was a troublemaker. But I have questioned him here in front of you, and I have not found him guilty of anything that you say he has done. Herod didn't find him guilty either and sent him back. This man doesn't deserve to be put to death! I will just have him beaten with a whip and set free."

Pilate said this, because every Passover he was supposed to set one prisoner free for the Jewish people.

(Reader B) But the whole crowd shouted, "Kill Jesus! Give us Barabbas!"

Now Barabbas was in jail because he had started a riot in the city and had murdered someone. Pilate wanted to set Jesus free, so he spoke again to the crowds. But they kept shouting, "Nail him to a cross! Nail him to a cross!" Pilate spoke to them a third time, "But what crime has he done? I have not found him guilty of anything for which he should be put to death. I will have him beaten with a whip and set free."

The people kept on shouting as loud as they could for Jesus to be put to death. Finally Pilate gave in. He freed the man who was in jail for rioting and murder, because he was the one the crowd wanted to be set free. Then Pilate handed Jesus over for them to do what they wanted with him.

(Reader C) As Jesus was being led away, some soldiers grabbed hold of a man from Cyrene named Simon. He was coming in from the fields, but they put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.

(Reader D) A large crowd was following Jesus, and in the crowd a lot of women were crying and weeping for him. Jesus turned to the women and said: "Women of Jerusalem, don't cry for me! Cry for yourselves and for your children. Someday people will say, 'Women who never had children are really fortunate!' At that time everyone will say to the mountains, 'Fall on us!' They will say to the hills, 'Hide us!' If this can happen when the wood is green, what do you think will happen when it is dry?"

(Reader C) Two criminals were led out to be put to death with Jesus. When the soldiers came to a place called "The Skull" they nailed Jesus to a cross. They also nailed the two criminals to crosses, one on each side of Jesus.

(Reader A) Jesus said, "Father, forgive these people! They don't know what they're doing." While the people stood there watching Jesus, the soldiers gambled for his clothes. The leaders insulted him by saying, "He saved others. Now he should save himself, if he really is God's chosen Messiah!"

The soldiers made fun of Jesus and brought him some wine. They said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself!" Above him was a sign that said, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals hanging there also insulted Jesus by saying, "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and save us!" But the other criminal told the first one off, "Don't you fear God? Aren't you getting the same punishment as this man? We got what was coming to us, but he didn't do



anything wrong.” Then he said to Jesus, “Remember me when you come into power!” Jesus replied. “I promise that today you will be with me in paradise.”

Around noon the sky turned dark and stayed that way until the middle of the afternoon. The sun stopped shining, and the curtain in the temple split down the middle. Jesus shouted, “Father, I put myself in your hands!”

Then he died.

(Reader B) When the Roman officer saw what had happened, he praised God and said, “Jesus must really have been a good man!”

(Reader D) A crowd had gathered to see the terrible sight. After they saw it, they felt broken-hearted and went home. All of Jesus’ close friends and the women who had come with him from Galilee stood at a distance and watched.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 50:6-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

I let them beat my back and pull out my beard. I didn’t turn aside when they made fun of me and spit in my face. But the Lord God keeps me from being embarrassed. And I refuse to give up, because I know I will never be ashamed.

PSALM

Psalm 22

Response: MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU ABANDONED ME?

Everyone who sees me makes fun and sneers.
They shake their heads, and say, “Trust the Lord!
If you are his favourite, let him protect you and keep you safe. **R**

My enemies have tied up my hands and my feet.
I can count all my bones!
They took my clothes and gambled for them. **R**

Don’t stay far away, Lord! My strength comes from you, so hurry and help.
And when your people meet, I will praise you, Lord. **R**

Scriptures from the Lectionary for Masses with Children (CEV)
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Background to the Readings for Leaders

The Jews had been longing for a great leader, like one of their Kings of old, who would lead them to victory against the Roman invaders. They thought that Jesus might be that leader. At this time of Passover many Jews gathered in Jerusalem to remember how God had saved them from slavery. But by his actions he shows everyone that he is no earthly king or soldier – he comes as the King of peace, love and forgiveness. This is why he chose to enter the city riding on a donkey, commonly used for carrying loads, rather than a battle horse.

Jesus' dying words are used as the Psalm response. It is important at this time of focusing on the agony and desolation of the passion, that we also remember the fact of the resurrection, as described by the evangelists and witnesses who viewed it from the perspective of the risen Christ ascending into glory. Paul's letter begins to draw out the implications of self-giving love of Jesus, who was obedient even to death, was raised up and glorified by God. Through giving his life he gained life.

Images from the Readings

- Palms
- King of the Jews
- Beaten with a whip
- Nail him to a cross
- A good man



Reflection for Leaders

Reflect on your feelings as you listened to the Passion being read. What does the passion of Jesus tell us about where God is in the suffering of the world and in our own personal suffering?

What does self-giving love imply for the way we live our lives?

What does it ask of us personally?

Reflecting on the Readings with the children

Before Sunday read over the suggested discussion points given in the Leader's Liturgy Outline.

With the 8-12 year olds: First, listen to the children's own responses to the Reading/s and then, if needed, use some of the discussion starters suggested.

With the 5-7 year olds: Adapt some of the questions in the 8-12 material and then join with the older group for the 'Liturgical Action'.

Suggested Focus

Prepare a focus for the area where the children's Liturgy of the Word is to be held:

Red cloth (Lent), Lectionary, a crucifix and palms surrounded by small tea-light candles.

A tray of objects related to the readings (eg palms, nails, a cross of sticks) may be close at hand as a visual prompt to focus the children on the readings. They can then be used to stimulate discussion.



LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Year C

For the Procession with Palms the children stay with the whole assembly and enter the church together with them. After the Opening Prayer the children are called forward, presented with the Children's Lectionary and a candle and sent, with their ministers, to the place where they will celebrate their own Liturgy of the Word. The priest may choose these words of dismissal or similar:

INVITATION – Pōwhiri I invite the children to join in the procession for
their celebration of the Liturgy of the Word.

To the Minister of the Word: Receive this Book of Readings and proclaim God's Word faithfully to the children entrusted to your care.

Receive this candle as the light of Christ who is present in his Word.

PROCESSION WITH THE BOOK OF READINGS – Te Kapa o te Pukapuka Tapu

WELCOME – Ko te whakatau

Leader: O God, we thank you for making us your children. Help us to serve others, especially those who are close to us.

R Amen.

No First or Second Reading today.

It is a good idea to divide the reading of the Passion into sections so that three or four people can read it.

For example: Reader A: 23:1-4; Reader B: 23:5; Reader A: 23:6-17; Reader B: 23:18-25; Reader C: 23:26; Reader D: 23:27-31; Reader C: 23:32-33; Reader A: 23:34-45; Reader B: 23:47; Reader D: 23:48-49 (as marked on pages 1 to 3 of this resource)

You might enlist the help of two or three older children or adult readers.

(Do not make a play out of the reading of the Passion)

D G A D Bm A D A

Praise the God of all com- pas- sion, Lord of hea - ven, Lord of earth.

D G A/C# D G A A7 D

He is king of all cre - a- tion, he is mer - cy, he is love.

Leader:

Before we processed into the church with our palms we heard the Gospel reading about Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and how the people welcomed him with joy and shouting. That joy and excitement did not last long. A few days later, after Jesus celebrated the Passover with his disciples (the Last Supper), he went into the garden to pray. There he was arrested and taken to the high priest's house. *Our Gospel reading now continues from there...*



Gospel: Luke 23:1-49

Minister of the Word: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke
Children: **Glory to you, O Lord / Korōria ki ā koe, e te Ariki**

At the end of the Gospel: The Gospel of the Lord
Children: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ / Kia whakanuia rā koe, e te Ariki, e Hēhu Karaiti.**

REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH THE CHILDREN – Whai Whakaaro

8-12 year olds: *Suggested Beginning: A good place to begin is with the question: What did you hear? Allow each child the opportunity to respond in their own words to hearing the Word of God. Then begin a general discussion, building on these responses, perhaps using some prepared questions, like the following, to stimulate ideas.*

Try to emphasise the resurrection – that life succeeds death; that we await the Alleluias of Easter Sunday morning. For now and the next five days, we follow the way of the Cross. Our procession today was the beginning, for the rest of the week we continue our pilgrimage to Easter.

- Who was there? Why did they want Jesus crucified?
- What does the story tell us about God and suffering in the world?

- Why was Jerusalem so busy at this time? (Passover)

5-7 year olds: Adapt some of the questions in the 8-12 material and then join with the older group for the 'Liturgical Action'

LITURGICAL ACTION – Ko te Ritenga Karakia

Talk with the children about the procession of palms that was celebrated before Mass began. Then pray together:



Holy Week ...

“May we grow closer to Jesus
during this week
as we remember and share
his journey to the cross.”

PROFESSION OF FAITH – *Panui o te Whakapono*

We believe in God the Father,
who made the whole world.
We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God,
who was born in Bethlehem
and lived among us,
who died on the cross for us,
and rose from the dead.
We believe in the Holy Spirit
who brings life and love to us all.
We believe that the Church is one family,
and that one day
we will share everlasting life
with God in heaven.
Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL – *Te Inoinga o te Hunga Whakapono*

(Here are some suggested intercessions; you are encouraged to compose your own according to the age and experience of the children)

Leader: With hearts full of hope let us pray to God our creator and redeemer for our needs:

- That the Church be a place that frightened people can shelter in.
Let us pray to the Lord
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For people who suffer for freedom
Let us pray to the Lord
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That we, the children of Aotearoa-New Zealand will be an example to others by the way we care for the poor, the sick and the unpopular.
Let us pray to the Lord
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For the gift of caring for others.
Let us pray to the Lord
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: God, our strength and hope, you heal the hurting and the broken-hearted, bless us and those for whom we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

The children re-join the assembly before the prayers over the gifts.

Notes for leaders:

Processions

Processions are an integral part of the Easter feast and begin today with the procession of palms. They are signs of our willingness to live as pilgrims, like the Israelites in the desert, we only wander through this earthly life for a time and like Jesus we wander from place to place with the good news. In our processing this week we follow more meaningfully than at any other time of the year in the footsteps of Jesus, from his entry into Jerusalem to his last steps on Calvary and on to the road to Emmaus.

Mediaeval pilgrims who went on pilgrimages to shrines were called ‘palmers’ because they carried leafy branches from trees as a sign of their religious purpose and zeal. “The act of walking in procession is an important ritual that promotes active, bodily participation in the liturgy. Processions are essential to Christian worship, walking and singing in procession teaches us in our bones what it means to be human, it makes us human, unites us in an assembly and puts us on the road to the new Jerusalem. Processions are great opportunities to worship God with our bodies as well as our minds, with walking as well as with words.” (Liturgy 90 Feb/Mar 94)



Palm Sunday procession of [Trique](#) people in Santo Domingo, Oaxaca
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia