



# 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 B*

*Red*

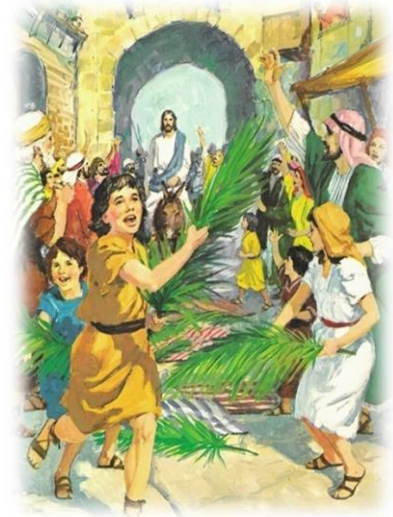
The Procession with Palms: *Mark 11:1-10*

Liturgy of the Word:

*Isaiah 50:4-7, Psalm 21, Philippians 2:6-11* (not included here)

*Mark 15:1-39*

*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.*



### *Leader's Preparation*

For this Sunday we have only supplied the 2 Gospel readings – for the Procession with Palms and for the Liturgy of the Word within Mass. We would suggest that children join with the full community for the Procession with Palms and then leave the church space after the Opening Prayer to celebrate the Liturgy of the Word in a separate place at their own level of understanding (using the material provided in the Liturgy Outline that follows.)



**GOSPEL** – before the Procession with Palms

Mark 11:1-10

Jesus and his disciples reached Bethphage and Bethany near the Mount of Olives. When they were getting close to Jerusalem, Jesus sent two of them on ahead. He told them, “Go into the next village. As soon as you enter it, you will find a young donkey that has never been ridden. Untie the donkey and bring it here. If anyone asks why you are doing that, say, ‘The lord needs it and will soon bring it back,’”

The disciples left and found the donkey tied near a door that faced the street. While they were untying it, some of the people standing there asked, “Why are you untying the donkey?” They told them what Jesus had said, and the people let them take it.

The disciples led the donkey to Jesus. They put some of their clothes on its back, and Jesus got on. Many people spread clothes on the road, while others went to cut branches from the fields.

In front of Jesus and behind him, people went along shouting, "Hosanna! God bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord! God bless the coming kingdom of our ancestor David. Hosanna to God in heaven above!"

•Early in the morning the chief priests, the nation's leaders, and the teachers of the law of Moses met together with the whole Jewish council. They tied up Jesus and led him off to Pilate.

He asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

"Those are your words," Jesus answered.

The chief priests brought many charges against Jesus. Then Pilate questioned him again, "Don't you have anything to say? Don't you hear what crimes they say you have done?" But Jesus did not answer, and Pilate was amazed.

•During Passover, Pilate always freed one prisoner chosen by the people. And at that time there was a prisoner named Barabbas. He and some others had been arrested for murder during a riot. The Jewish people now came and asked Pilate to set a prisoner free, just as he usually did.

Pilate asked them, "Do you want me to free the king of the Jews?" Pilate knew that the chief priests had brought Jesus to him because they were jealous.

But the chief priests told the crowd to ask Pilate to free Barabbas. Then Pilate asked the crowd, "What do you want me to do with this man you say is the king of the Jews?"

They yelled, "Nail him to a cross!"

Pilate asked, "But what crime has he done?"

"Nail him to a cross!" they yelled even louder.

Pilate wanted to please the crowd. So he set Barabbas free. Then he ordered his soldiers to beat Jesus with a whip and nail him to a cross.



•The soldiers led Jesus inside the courtyard of the fortress and called together the rest of the troops. They put a purple robe on him, and on his head they placed a crown that they had made out of thorn branches. They made fun of Jesus and shouted, "Hey, you king of the Jews!" Then they beat him on the head with a stick. They spit on him and knelt down and pretended to worship him.

When the soldiers had finished making fun of Jesus, they took off the purple robe. They put his own clothes back on him and led him off to be nailed to a cross. Simon from Cyrene happened to be coming in from a farm, and they forced him to carry Jesus' cross.

Simon was the father of Alexander and Rufus.

•The soldiers took Jesus to Golgotha, which means "Place of a Skull." There they gave him some wine mixed with a drug to ease the pain, but he refused to drink it.

They nailed Jesus to a cross and gambled to see who would get his clothes. It was about nine o'clock in the morning when they nailed him to the cross. On it was a sign that told why he was

nailed there. It read, "This is the King of the Jews." The soldiers also nailed two criminals on crosses, one to the right of Jesus and the other to his left. So the Scriptures came true which say, "He was accused of being a criminal."

People who passed by said terrible things about Jesus. They shook their heads and shouted, "Ha! So you're the one who claimed you could tear down the temple and build it again in three days. Save yourself and come down from the cross!"

The chief priests and the teachers of the law of Moses also made fun of Jesus. They said to each other, "He saved others, but he can't save himself. If he is the Messiah, the king of Israel, let him come down from the cross! Then we will see and believe." The two criminals also said cruel things to Jesus.

•About noon the sky turned dark and stayed that way until around three o'clock. Then about that time Jesus shouted,

"Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you deserted me?"

Some of the people standing there heard Jesus and said, "He is calling for Elijah." One of them ran and grabbed a sponge. After he had soaked it in wine, he put it on a stick and held it up to Jesus. He said, "Let's wait and see if Elijah will come and take him down!"

Jesus shouted and then he died.

At once the curtain in the temple tore in two from top to bottom.

A Roman army officer was standing in front of Jesus. When the officer saw how Jesus died, he said, "This man really was the Son of God!"

The bullet points above divide the Gospel into 5 sections to be read by different voices.

*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. It is important at this time to focus on the agony and desolation of the passion, but 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.

## *Images from the Readings*

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

## *Reflection for Leaders*

### *The Passion:*

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, Lectionary, a crucifix and palms surrounded by small tea-light candles.



# LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

## *Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord - Year B*

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 and Second Reading in the Lectionary for Masses with Children today.**

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.

It is a good idea to divide the reading of the Passion into sections so that three, four or more people can read it. You might enlist the help of two or three older children and adult readers. *(Do not make a play out of the reading of the Passion)*

*(The leader may choose to introduce the Gospel with the following words:)*

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 ...*

### *Gospel: Mark 15:1-39*

**Minister of the Word:** The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark  
**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? (Jesus' teachings made the religious leaders angry.)
- 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 Rītenga Karakia*

*Pray with the children:*

“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 Īnoinga 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 all our needs:
- That the Church be a place where frightened people can shelter.  
Let us pray to the Lord   ℟   Lord hear our prayer  
or                   **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
  - That we may learn not to give up when things get difficult. .  
Let us pray to the Lord   ℟   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   ℟   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   ℟   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.