

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: Luke 22:14–23:56

At this Palm Sunday Mass, the Gospel is the story of Christ's passion from Luke's Gospel. Palm Sunday with its reenactment of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem is the lead in to the holiest days of the year. The events of this week follow Jesus' steps through the Last Supper, the agony in the garden, his betrayal, his trial and condemnation, his Death on the Cross, and his burial.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Be sure to take a piece of blessed palm home after Sunday Mass. Make a little ceremony of placing the palm behind a crucifix or holy picture or in some other prominent place in your home. Talk with your young child about how this palm branch shows how your family welcomes Jesus into your home. Retell the story of Palm Sunday using the figures made during Seeds class.

Promise (Grades K–1): Ask your child to share with the family about Jesus' journey through death to resurrection. Your child can use the Holy Week story pages from the lesson booklet. Try to keep family awareness high all week by some special prayer or activity for each day of Holy Week—especially Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

Good News (Grades 2–3): This week your child's class participated in a play that dramatized the events of Holy Week. Together the class made the journey from Palm Sunday to the burial of Jesus after the crucifixion. Together plan how you will spend these important days of the Church year. Plan to attend at least one of the Holy Week services as a family.

Venture (Grades 4–6): This week in class, your child identified the events celebrated on each of the important days of Holy Week. The class also learned about the Stations of the Cross and Easter Vigil. As Lent comes to a close, visit your church and make the Stations of the Cross together as a family.

Visions (Grades 7–8): The class this week went through all the celebrations of Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. As a family, make a Holy Week plan. Decide what celebrations you can attend in the parish. Plan, too, to make each of the days of this week special in your home. Ask your young person to take the lead in sharing with the family what each of the days celebrate and then decide how you will reflect that at home. Be sure to stick to the plan.

Pray Together

One of the elements of the Good Friday liturgy is the veneration of the cross. Every Catholic home should have a cross or a crucifix prominently displayed. After you complete your conversation about the week's Gospel lesson, one day this week, gather around a crucifix. Pray together the prayer from the liturgy: "Behold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the salvation of the world. Come let us adore." If possible, pass the crucifix from one family member to the next. Each family member can then gently kiss the crucifix. Then, repeat the prayer.