

PEOPLE CHEER FOR JESUS

One day, Jesus learned that his friend Lazarus had died. He went to visit the sisters of Lazarus, Mary and Martha, and asked where Lazarus was buried. When they showed Jesus the tomb, Jesus called for the dead man to come out, and he did! It was a miracle!

By the next day, many people had heard about Lazarus, and Jesus. They wanted to see Jesus. Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. He found a young ass and sat upon it. People, including children, took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel."



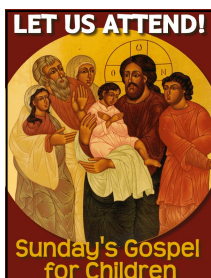
Icon courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Jesus heard that His friend had died. What was His friend's name?
2. What did Jesus do when He was shown to the tomb?
3. The next day Jesus was on a journey. Where was He going?
4. Many people wanted to see Jesus. Children were there, too. Can you find the two small figures in the icon? They represent the children.
5. When we celebrate Palm Sunday, what do we hold in our hands?



Image courtesy of Teaching Pics



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Pre-12



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CROWDS COME TO SEE JESUS

Six days before Passover, in Bethany, our Lord Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. Then, his family made supper for Him. Martha served it and Lazarus was at the table with Him. Mary, the other sister in the family, took a pound of expensive perfume. She poured it all over Jesus' feet, then wiped His feet with her hair. The whole house smelled so nice!

Jesus' disciple Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed Jesus, rudely said, "Why wasn't that perfume sold. The money could have been given to poor people." (He did not really care about poor people—he just wanted the money in Jesus' money box, so he could steal it.)

Jesus told him, "You will always have poor people with you, but you won't always have me here!"

After that, a lot of Jewish people came. They wanted to see Jesus. They also wanted to see Lazarus, to see if he was really alive! The chief priests decided to kill Lazarus since, because of him, many Jews were believing in Jesus.

The next day, many people heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. They took branches from palm trees and waved them to honor Him. They said, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel!"

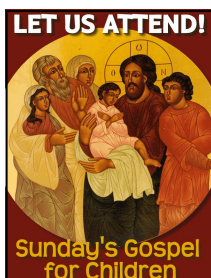
They kept saying this as Jesus rode by them, on the foal of a donkey, all the way to Jerusalem. Not until much later, did Jesus' disciples realize that the prophets had told what would happen on this day.



Icon courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Jesus raised His friend from the dead. What was Jesus' friend's name?
2. What did Mary do to Jesus' feet, after dinner?
3. Did Judas Iscariot like what Mary did? What did he say she should have done with the perfume?
4. Did he really want to give the money to the poor?
5. Many people wanted to see Jesus on His way to Jerusalem. Children were there, too. Can you find the two small figures in the icon? They represent the children.
5. When we celebrate Palm Sunday, what do we hold in our hands?
6. When we celebrate Palm Sunday, we know that we will be in church a lot the next week. It is Holy Week. Holy Week is our time to relive the last days of Jesus before His Crucifixion.



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JESUS IS HAILED AS A KING

Six days before Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Laz'arus who had died was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Laz'arus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment.

But Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, one of his disciples (he who was to betray Jesus), said, "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it. Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of my burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Laz'arus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Laz'arus also to death, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they

took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel!"

And Jesus found a young ass and sat upon it; as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on an ass's colt!"

His disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of him and had been done to him.

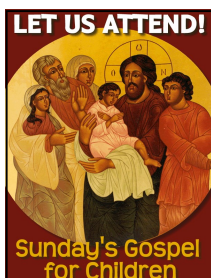
The crowd that had been with him when he called Laz'arus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.



Image courtesy of Teaching Pics

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What does "hosanna" mean? Would you say hello to one of your friends by saying hosanna? Why or why not? Why do you think the people in this Gospel say hosanna to Jesus?
2. Who is the crowd talking about when they shout: "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord?"
3. Do you recognize this phrase from the Gospel? Where do you hear us use this saying in the liturgy? Who are we talking about when we say that in the liturgy?
4. What do we do after we sing those words?
5. What do the word "Hosanna" and the phrase "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" say about Jesus?



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JESUS IS HAILED AS A KING

Characters: Narrator, Judas, Jesus, People,
Prophet Zechariah

Narrator: Six days before Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Laz'arus who had died was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Laz'arus was one of those at table with him. Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment.

But Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, one of his disciples (he who was to betray Jesus), said,

Judas: Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?

Narrator: This he said, not that he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it. Jesus said,

Jesus: Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of my burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me.

Narrator: When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Laz'arus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Laz'arus also to death, because on

account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying,

People: Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel!

Narrator: And Jesus found a young ass and sat upon it; as it is written,

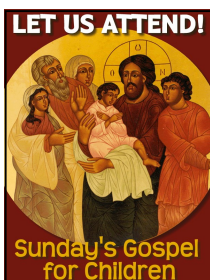
Prophet: Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on an ass's colt!

Narrator: His disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of him and had been done to him.

The crowd that had been with him when he called Laz'arus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.



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IN THE NAME OF THE LORD

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the Jews learned that he was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Laz'arus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Laz'arus also to death, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

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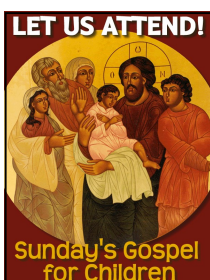
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The crowd that had been with him when he called Laz'arus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What does the word, "hosanna," mean? Would we use that word to greet a friend?
2. Who was the first king of Israel? (If you don't know, ask a fellow parishioner this question.) Why would the people in this gospel be calling Jesus the king of Israel?
3. Why is it significant that Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead? What is Jesus revealing about himself by doing that act?
4. What event does the phrase, "when Jesus was glorified," refer to? What did Jesus have to do in order for his disciples to understand who He is?
5. What do all of these sayings and events together tell us about who Jesus is?



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BLESSED IS HE...

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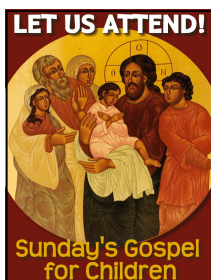
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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What do you think Jesus meant when he said, "You always have the poor with you but you do not always have me?" Do you think it is true that we always have the poor with us?
2. Does this mean we do not need to care for the poor?
3. Do you think Judas' question is a valid one? Why or why not? Is there any problem with his question? What is it, if any?
4. We have a lot of materials in our churches that we use to carry out our services. Why do you think we spend money on these things when there are poor people in our areas? Do you think that is right? Why or why not?



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