

JESUS GREETED AS KING

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."



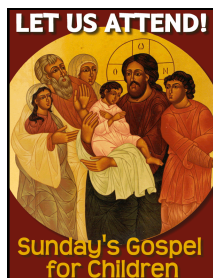
Icon courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)

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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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!"

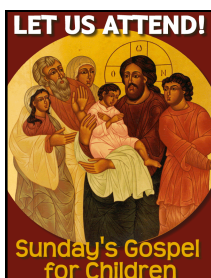
They kept saying this as Jesus rode by them, on the foal of a donkey, all the way to Jerusalem. Not until much later did Jesus' disciples realize that the prophets had told what would happen on this day!



Icon courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What did Jesus do in Bethany, six days before Passover?
2. After they had supper together, what did Mary do? Do you think that was nice? Why or why not?
3. Did Judas think it was nice? Why or why not?
4. Where did Jesus go the next day?
5. As He went, the people called Jesus "the King of Israel." What did they do to show honor to Him?
6. When you go to Divine Liturgy, listen closely. Do you hear the words that the people said to Jesus when He came near them on that day? We say (or sing) those words too, as He comes near to us!



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JESUS' ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

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, "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.

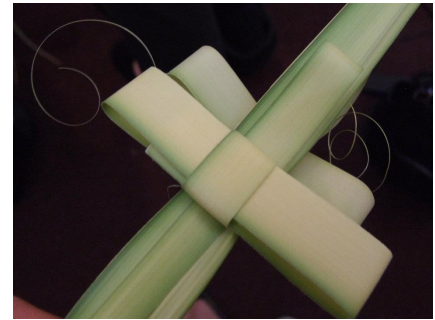
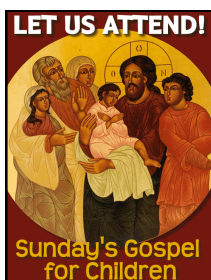


photo by Timm Wenger

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. Who was Jesus having supper with at the beginning of this Gospel? Do you remember other stories about any of them?
2. What does Mary do to Jesus? Why do you think she does this?
3. Who criticizes Mary's action? Why do you think he does this?
4. What happened the next day?
5. Why did so many people come to meet Jesus on that day?
6. Who in this Gospel do you think you would have been, if you were there? The re-awakened Laz'arus? Serving Martha? Adoring Mary? Selfish Judas? Scheming chief priests? Or curious crowd members? Why?



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JESUS' ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

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,

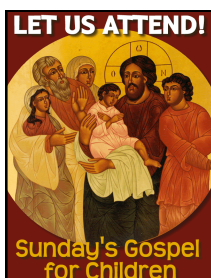
People: Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel!

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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JESUS' TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

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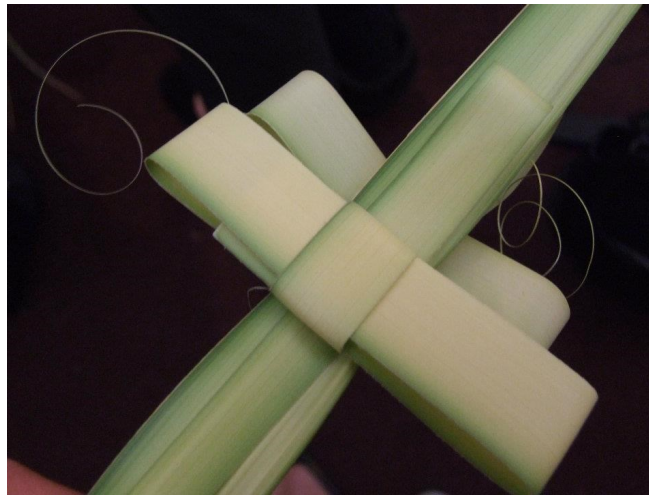


photo by Timm Wenger

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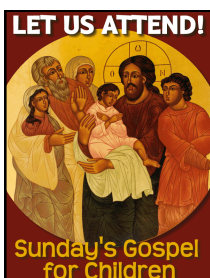
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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Where does Jesus come six days before the Passover? Whose home is this?
2. What do we know about Lazarus?
3. What happens when the people learn Jesus is in Bethany? Why do they come and form a great crowd?
4. Why do they want to see Jesus? Why do they want to see Lazarus?
5. Why do you think Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead brought them both so much attention? What do you think the crowds learned about Jesus because he raised Lazarus from the dead?
6. Would you run out to see someone who did this? Why or why not?
7. How are we doing that, running out to see the one who raised Lazarus, today as a community on Palm Sunday?



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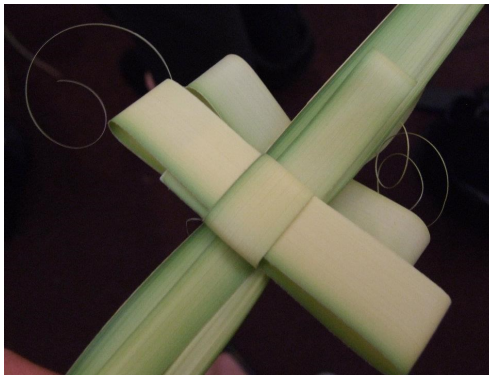


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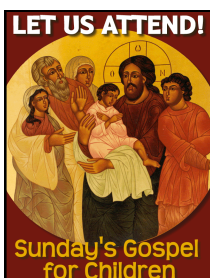
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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What does the crowd do when they hear that Jesus is coming to Jerusalem?
2. What does Jesus do?
3. What do the disciples think about all of this?
4. What does the text mean when it says "Jesus was glorified?" When was He glorified and how was He glorified?
5. What do the disciples remember when Jesus is glorified?
6. When the text says they remember "that these things had been written of him" it is referring to the Old Testament texts that were quoted earlier. What does this tell you about what the disciples did in order to understand who Jesus was?
7. What does this suggest about faith?
8. Have you ever felt like you don't understand something about God or Jesus?
9. What is this gospel suggesting we need to do in order to come to a place where we can understand? What do you think about that? What is difficult about that? What is helpful about that?



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