

LENT

The King Comes to Jerusalem

Entrance music (either live or recorded) Choose a suitable piece of music

Introduction

Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and the cheering crowd welcomed him as the Messiah, the long-awaited One. They laid their cloaks on the ground for him to walk on, as a sign of respect; they waved palm branches. It was a welcome such as kings received at that time.

Focus or symbol –

- ~ The Bible and palm branches
- ~ Words such as Hosanna, King, Messiah may be displayed

Sign of the Cross

Jesus is not a king in our sense; the Cross on which he was executed carried the words: “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.” So we begin “*In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*”

Hymn or song

CFE

O&N

265 Hosanna, loud Hosanna

268 How lovely on the mountains *vs. 1 – 4* 223

Reading *Mark 11:1-11*

As Jesus and his disciples approached Jerusalem they came to the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent two of his disciples on ahead to a village with the instruction that they should bring a donkey that was tied up and waiting for them. They brought the donkey to Jesus and spread their cloaks over it and on the road. People cheered and chanted, “Praise God. Blessed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings to God for the King of Israel.
Hosanna in the highest.”

Comment on reading

God’s ways are not our ways. The Jews in the Old Testament expected a glorious king to come as a political leader. God’s way was to send His Son as a humble King who would set them free not by terrorism or by a popular uprising, but by dying on the Cross. The kingdom he left, and of which we are members by baptism, is not a showy one, but a community under Christ the King which will be committed to “truth and life, holiness and grace, justice, love and peace.” [see Vatican II, Church, LG 36]

Response to reading

The Bible is carried around the hall with a crucifix and some palm branches and candles. The rest of the assembly sing a hymn such as:

<i>CFE</i>	<i>O&N</i>
190 Give me joy in my heart	159
698 The King of glory comes,	527
the nation rejoices	

Prayers

With confident hope we pray to Jesus our King that the marks of his Kingdom may appear in our midst:

That all people may be committed to the values of truth and life.

Response: You are the King of glory.

That the Church may grow in holiness and grace

R./ You are the King of glory.

That all who have responsibility for law in our society may serve the cause of justice.

R./ You are the King of glory.

That we may show by our lives, that love, which is the supreme mark of the Kingdom.

R./ You are the King of glory.

That places in conflict [*name some*] may find the ways of peace.

R./ You are the King of glory.

(other prayers)

R./ You are the King of glory.

Our Father...

Thought-Word-Phrase for the day

“Your Kingdom come”

Blessing

May Jesus our King bless us this day and help us to walk in the ways of truth and life, holiness and grace, justice, love and peace. Amen.

Concluding song or music

<i>CFE</i>		<i>O&N</i>
801	When I survey the wondrous Cross	610
	or	
	play “The Holy City” by Stephen Adams	