

Kids' Chronicle

Jesus rides into Jerusalem

BY JOE SARNICOLA

When Jesus and his disciples had reached Bethpage, on the Mount of Olives, they did not have much farther to go before they would come to Jerusalem. Jesus put his hands on the shoulders of two of his friends and said, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tethered and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them here to me."

Jesus could tell that the two men were uncomfortable taking the animals without asking, so he told them what to do if there were a problem. "If anyone should say anything to you, reply, 'The master has need of them.' Then he will send them at once."

When he was asked why they were being sent to fetch the animals, when they had already walked so far and their destination was so near, Jesus answered, "So that what had been spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled: 'Behold, your king comes to you meek and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'"

The disciples nodded in understanding of what Jesus had told them, and they left to find the donkey and the colt. They returned after a short time and threw their cloaks across the back of the donkey and Jesus sat on them.

As often was the case when the man named Jesus was approaching a city, word spread quickly and a crowd gath-

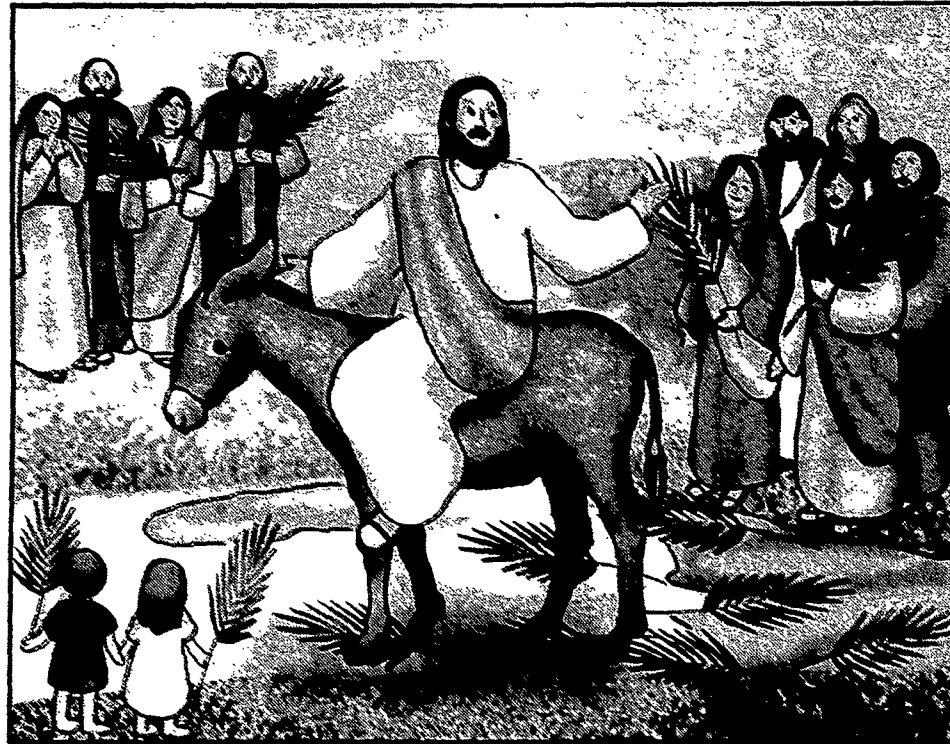


Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

ered to see him. Many hoped for a miracle, others just wanted to see him with their own eyes. There were many, many people who came from Jerusalem. Some placed their cloaks on the road in front of Jesus. When someone cut down a few palm branches and put them in the road, many other people did the same until the entire route that Jesus rode into Jerusalem was covered by cloaks and

palm leaves.

The people followed behind Jesus as he rode into the city and chanted, "Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest."

When Jesus entered the city everyone there was amazed and some of them asked, "Who is this?" And the people who had followed Jesus shouted in reply, "This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee!"

READ MORE ABOUT IT:
Matthew 21

Q&A

1. What did Jesus tell the disciples to do?
2. How did the people greet Jesus?

Bible Accent

The palm tree has deep tap roots that can find enough water for it to thrive even in the hot, dry climate of ancient Israel and the surrounding areas. The tall, leafy plant lives for a long time and produces a chewy fruit called a date. The term scientists used to name the palm tree was phoenix; after the ancient Middle Eastern country of Phoenicia. The palm tree was useful for more than its fruit. A fermented drink could be made by processing the sap, and the leaves could be used to weave everything from the roof of a home to a sturdy basket. People waved palm leaves and laid them on the road in front of Jesus as he rode into Jerusalem, as if he were a king. Because of this, we call the Sunday before Easter "Palm Sunday."

St. Casimir

Casimir was the third oldest child of King Casimir IV of Poland. He had twelve brothers and sisters. After receiving much of his education from a noted historian, John Dlugosz, Casimir devoted his life to prayer and meditation. A humble man, he always dressed in plain clothes and he gave generously to the poor. The nobles of Hungary wanted to have their king removed from office and have Casimir take his place. Casimir did not want to go, but, at the wish of his father, he went with an army to Hungary. Many of those soldiers did not want to fight the Hungarian army and deserted. Casimir returned home before any fighting started. He spent as much time as he could furthering his religious studies. He came to be known by the Poles as "the Peacemaker," even though he died at the age of 23. We honor him on March 4.

Puzzle

Circle the words from the list that are hidden in the puzzle box. They may run in any direction. Can you find the bonus word that is not listed? Answers on page 9.

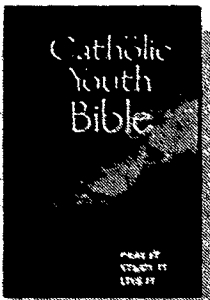
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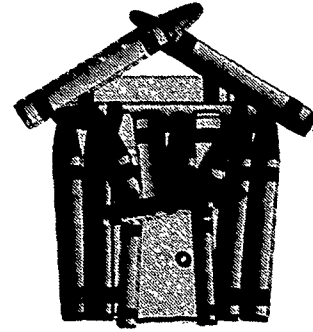
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You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) answering this question: **What can we do to show love and compassion to other people the way Jesus did?**

Send your essay — including name, home address, telephone number, school and grade — to *Catholic Courier*, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624. Deadline for entries is March 21, 2002. The winner will be notified by phone and receive the savings bond by mail. In addition, the winner's essay will be published in an upcoming issue of *Kids' Chronicle*.

Last month's winner was Krista Mahns, a fifth-grader at St. John the Evangelist School, Greece. In response to *Why is our religious education so important?* she wrote "Our religious education is so important because of our love for Jesus and the saints. Jesus always said that he wanted us to follow in his footsteps and by his examples. We learn that treating each other with respect is how Jesus would want us to act.

"In school we study about Jesus, the disciples, the saints, the Catholic Church, and learn to read the Bible. We go to First Friday Mass, we have the Living Rosary and the May Crowning to honor our mother, Mary. Most important in school we are allowed to pray and thank God for what he has done for us. This is why our religious education is so important."

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