

## Session 5: **PREPARATION FOR INITIATION**

If the Purification and Enlightenment period is taking place during Lent, this Sunday will be Palm Sunday.

If this is Palm Sunday, explain the reasons for the palms. At the beginning of the Sunday Mass we all receive palms in memory of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The reason we call this 'Palm Sunday' is because of the palm branches that people waved joyfully in the air and laid down on the ground in front of Jesus.

### Dismissal

After the Elect are dismissed from Mass, they move with the catechist to another area which has a sacred space arranged and comfortable seating for those gathered.

Today at Mass we heard readings from ... (name the readings e.g. Isaiah or Matthew).

1. Tell me something that you heard from the Mass or the readings at Mass.
2. Let's go back and look at the gospel again. Read from the Bible and as you read this, focus on what you might have seen if you had been there. Share your thoughts if you would like to.
3. Read the passage again and pay attention to what might have been heard such as background sounds, people talking. Pay attention to the questions that Jesus or the disciples ask.
4. Now that you have heard this gospel, what will it mean for you this week? Has this created a new impression for you about God or the Church? What is Jesus saying to you? Make a commitment to what you will do differently from now on.

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## Activity Book - Gospel Space

In your Activity Book (page 37), after listening to and discussing the gospel, write down what you think Jesus is asking you to do this week.

## Exploring

These readings on Passion Sunday give us an account of how people approached Jesus then, and how we approach him now.

How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus entered the city?

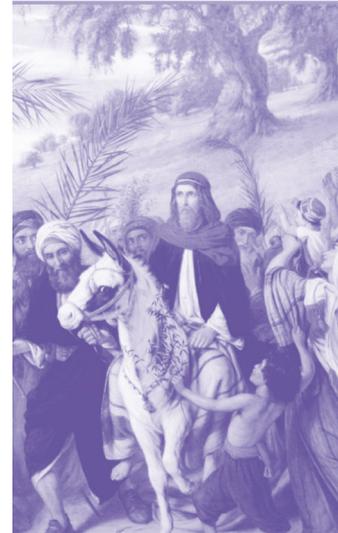
They were overwhelmed with joy and excitement.

What did the Pharisees think of Jesus?

They seemed jealous, concerned, and a little indignant.

It was a scene of great celebration. Jesus had just raised Lazarus from the dead and the crowds gathered for the Passover feast. Jesus was celebrated and popular. The crowds were hysterical and there was shouting, singing, and anticipation. No one, except Jesus, knew what was going to happen next.

If a similar scene were to take place today, how do you think the crowd would react?



## Activity Book

In your Activity Book (page 38), is the following prayer that you can pray each day as you prepare for your Baptism, Confirmation and first Communion:

**Loving God,  
as I continue on my journey of faith,  
help my ears to be open to your word and let my lips share your word with those I meet.  
I ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## Prayer

Before we leave today, let us ask for God's blessing upon our week with a modified prayer from Numbers 6:24-26.

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.  
May the LORD bless us and keep us;  
May the LORD make his face to shine upon us, and be gracious to us;  
May the LORD lift up his countenance upon us, and give us peace.**