

# THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

THE LIFE OF CHRIST WITH SAINT LUKE



## BETHANY & THEN THE JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM

John 11:38-57 & Luke 19:28-40

Next year, we will learn more about the raising of Lazarus in the Gospel of John, but we are going to briefly talk about the connection between this event and Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem - because they are important!

Christ arrived in Bethany, where His friend, Lazarus, had died four days before. Lazarus' sisters, Mary and Martha, were grieving for the loss of their brother.

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### GOAL

Learn about Christ's  
Triumphal Entry into  
Jerusalem

2

### AT CHURCH

Holy Week:  
Saturday of Lazarus  
Palm Sunday

3

### AT HOME

What do we do with  
our blessed palm  
crosses?



**Triumph:**  
was an ancient  
Roman custom  
where the  
victorious leader  
would ride into the  
city in a formal and  
dazzling procession,  
followed by his  
soldiers



**A donkey's colt:**  
a male donkey  
under the age of 4  
years old

When Martha heard that Jesus had arrived in Bethany, she went running out of her home to greet Him and shortly thereafter Mary joined them.

Jesus asked the sisters to lead Him to the tomb where their brother had been buried and told them to take away the stone covering the cave. But immediately Martha began to protest and explain to Jesus that Lazarus had been dead four days and the stench would be unbearable at this point. After praying, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!"

Then Lazarus emerged from the cave, wrapped in his burial cloths and Jesus asked that they take them off.

Some of the Jews present immediately believed that Jesus was the Son of God, while others ran to Jerusalem (about 2 miles away) to tell the Pharisees what they had just witnessed in Bethany.

News spread rapidly among the people that Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead after four days in the tomb.

This forced the chief priest and Pharisees to gather a council to discuss the situation. They feared that if they did not permanently get rid of Jesus,



the Roman Empire would intervene. The Romans allowed the Sanhedrin to have the power they had in Jerusalem because they helped to keep the peace with the people. If they could not control the general population, then the Roman Empire would very likely take away all of the control they did possess. The situation, in their eyes, was dire.

Jesus and His disciples knew the Jewish authorities were out looking for them. They quietly left for Ephraim (John 11:54) until it was time to enter Jerusalem.

## THE ROMAN TRIUMPH

It was widely known that the Roman Empire had a formal and extravagant tradition called a

### EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

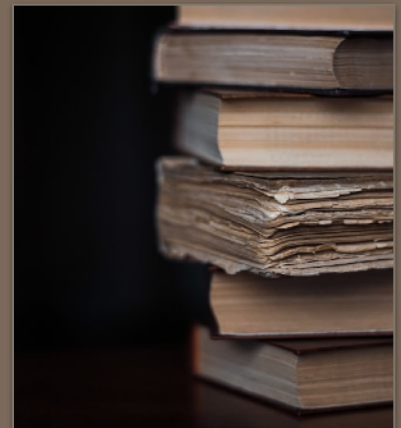
The Gospel of Luke: Good News for the Poor by Fr. Lawrence Farley, pages 339-342

The Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to Luke by Blessed Theophylact, pages 252-256

The Crucifixion of the King of Glory by Dr. Eugenia Constantinou, pages 39-41

YouTube: [The Roman Triumph](#)

YouTube: [St. John's DFW Orthos & Divine Liturgy - Palm Sunday](#)



Triumph for generals (and later exclusively for the emperors). When a general won a major battle, they would come back to Rome and petition the Senate to receive a Triumph. If granted, the general would be given permission to enter a specific gate into the city of Rome in a grand procession. This procession would include wagons filled with billboards depicting the newly conquered land, riches from this land - precious metals, spices, cloth, animals, and anything of value. Following these wagons would be the prisoners of war, including the former leadership of the conquered land. Then came the general (or emperor) riding in a chariot, being pulled by 4 spectacular horses. Following the general, would be his family and then his army. The whole thing was a huge deal.

Now, keep all of this in mind when you read about Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

## THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

Jesus begins His final journey to Jerusalem, but as He reaches the Mt. of Olives, He instructs two of His disciples to retrieve a colt of a donkey at a specific location. They brought back the colt and Jesus sat upon it. He had always walked into Jerusalem before now, but this time was different. This time, the people would be waiting for Him at the city gates and cheering together with Christ's disciples, "Blessed is the **King** who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" (Luke 19:38)

Let's think about this for a moment. Rome is the occupier of Israel at this point in time and the custom of the Roman Triumph is well known among the people. The crowd of people are, for the first and only time, publicly declaring Christ to be the Messiah! Jesus comes down from the Mt. of Olives riding on not a spectacular horse to process into the city complete with the spoils of war, but rather on a humble donkey followed by His peaceful army of Disciples.

Jesus is entering the city for His death. Why do we have this day as one of our major feast days then? It is because the people publicly recognized Him as the Messiah. Before now, He had always hushed people and told them not to say anything, but now Christ was accepting all the cheers and affirmations that He the long awaited One. The people didn't understand though that Jesus was not a political savior, but the Son of God coming for the salvation of all!

## ACTIVITY: OPTION 1

Pass out a small dry erase board and marker to each student in your class.

You can use the dry erase boards to:

- Review the lesson by asking questions. You can see the overall understanding of the class by their answers as they hold them up.
- Draw a rough map of Israel and mark important, main points of interest
- Have students write two questions about the lesson, collect the dry erase boards and randomly pass them out for other students to answer
- Write a question for the teacher - for more info, clarification, etc.

## ACTIVITY: OPTION 2

**Ongoing Holy Week Folder Activity:** Pass out a folder to each student in the class. It will have the attached worksheets inside the folder for each of them to work on in class.

These folders will stay in class and additional sheets will be added each week for the student to complete.

At the end of the year, they take home their book.

# THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

## AT HOME

### FOR PARENTS

**W**hat then should Christian education be, if not the introduction into this life of the Church, an unfolding of its meaning, its contents and its purpose? And how can it introduce anyone into this life, if not by participation in the liturgical services on the one hand, and their explanation on the other hand? “O taste and see how good is the Lord”: first taste, then see - i.e. understand.

Fr. Alexander Schmemmann

Liturgy and Life: Christian Development  
Through Liturgical Experience

We are quickly approaching the Triodion, which is the three week preparation period before Great Lent begins.

Now is the time to think about what services your family is hoping to attend during Lent, talk to your Father Confessor about any questions you may have relating to fasting or prayer within your families, and prepare your home before our schedules are full of services to attend.

What changes can you make this year to help yourself and your family progress forward on your spiritual journey? Is there a prayer you want to have printed and ready? Do you want to learn how to make kollyva and commemorate family who have passed away on Saturday of Souls? Do you want to learn more about the services and explain them to your kids? Do you want to incorporate the Pascha Passports into your daily routine this year?

## HOME ACTIVITY #17

**YouTube:** [The Life of St. Lazarus the Friend of Jesus](#)

**Greek Orthodox Archdiocese -** [Learn: Palm Sunday](#)







# RAISING OF LAZARUS

John 11:38-57



## How this applies to me:

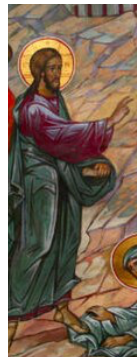
Every year, we have Divine Liturgy on Lazarus Saturday on the day before Palm Sunday.

Our parish also has a children's retreat on Lazarus Saturday: we have a lesson, activity, and we fold palm crosses for the next day.

## WHO'S WHO?



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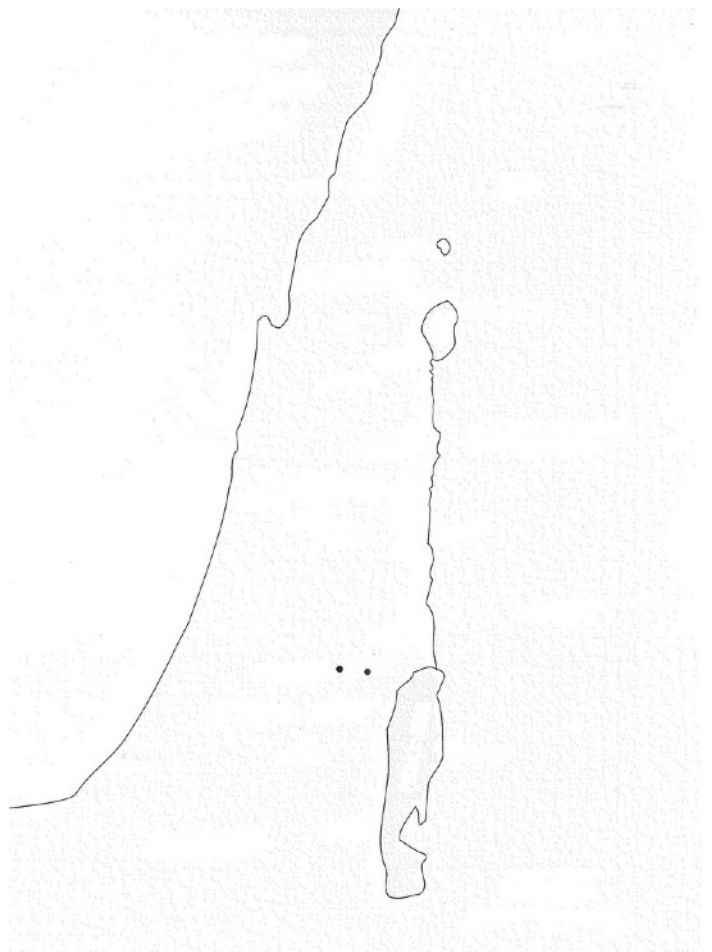
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*Look at your classroom map and find Jerusalem and Bethany on the map. Then label "Jerusalem" and "Bethany" on your map:*





# TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

Luke 19:28-40



**How this applies to me:**

Christ's entry into Jerusalem is a major feast day for us. The people had publicly declared for the first and only time that Jesus was the Messiah.

This feast day is also known as Palm Sunday.

## WHO'S WHO?



In the Roman Empire, a victorious general would enter the city gates with spectacular horses and his army following him in a procession called a Triumph. This formal procession was elaborate and showed off all the spoils and riches of winning a war.

Whereas, Christ entered the city gates of Jerusalem on a humble donkey with His disciples following Him.



*We receive blessed palm crosses and place them on our family icon corner or tuck them behind an icon.*