

## LESSON 35

### EASTER: CHRIST THE KING

Isaiah 9:6&7; Luke 19:28-38; John 18:28-40

*Readings CD 4, Track 1*

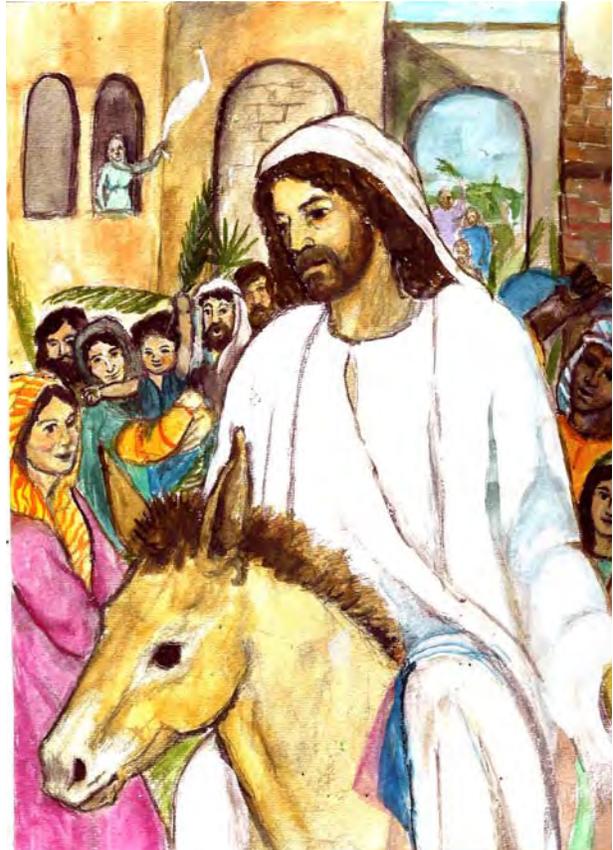
**Blessed is the King who comes  
in the name of the Lord!  
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!**

Luke 19:38

#### **The Lord came on earth as a Heavenly King**

Throughout the Old Testament the Lord told people that He would be coming to earth. Each message of the coming of the Lord is a prophecy.

In some of His prophecies, the Lord told people He would be coming as a King. In our reading for this lesson in Isaiah, we are taught that the Lord would sit on the throne of David and bring order to the kingdom. Of course many people were thinking He would take over the land in which the Jewish nation lived, and give the government of it back to the Jews. At the time Jesus lived on earth their land was ruled by the Romans, and the people felt very oppressed. Even the Jewish leaders—the priests, scribes and Pharisees—did not have the power to truly lead their people.



**Imagine what it would be like to have your country ruled by a nation from far away. Would you feel free? Why or why not?**

#### **Palm Sunday**

The Jewish people were looking forward to a savior who would lead them to get rid of their oppressors and bring power back to their own leaders. So on Palm Sunday, as Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey colt, they were overjoyed. Another prophecy was being fulfilled.

“Tell the Daughter of Zion, Behold your King is coming to you,  
Lowly and sitting on a donkey, a colt the foal of a donkey.” (Zechariah 9:9)

The people welcomed Jesus by treating Him as a king, throwing their coats and palm branches on the road before Him as He entered the city. They shouted,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest.”

### **Jesus is betrayed**

During the week following His entry into Jerusalem, Jesus was often tested by the priests, scribes and Pharisees of the Jewish religion. They feared Him because so many people seemed to be following Jesus rather than themselves. They asked Him questions they hoped He could not answer, they claimed some of His actions were against Jewish law, and they challenged His authority to teach. Each time Jesus was able to respond honestly, but in such a way that the leaders could not find fault and thus find Him guilty of any wrong-doing. They were getting very frustrated.

Then Judas Iscariot went to the chief priests, offering to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. You can imagine how excited the Jewish leaders were. Finally, they would have the means to capture Jesus and find Him guilty and get rid of Him and His influence over the people.

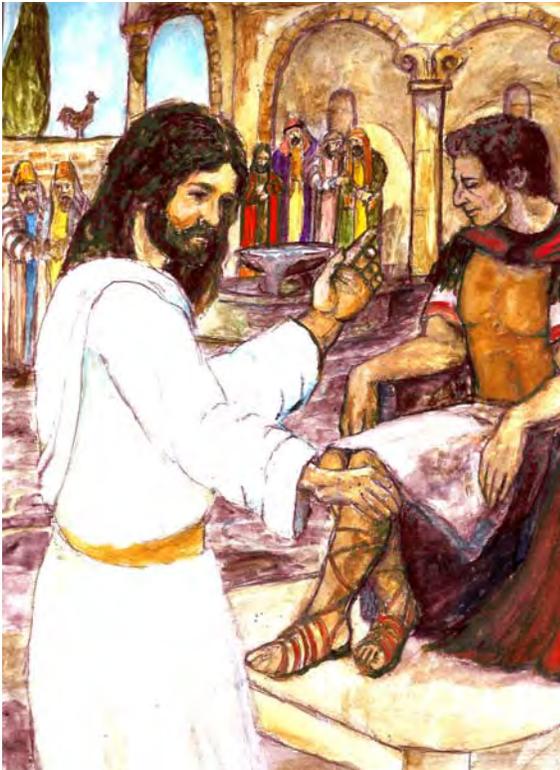


Judas chose to lead many people including the chief priests, scribes and elders to Jesus at a time and place when He would be vulnerable. Judas knew Jesus would go to the Mount of Olives in the evening as this was His custom. This would be a perfect opportunity for Jesus to be seized when the crowds of His followers would not be around to interfere.

When Judas and Jesus' arrived, Jesus had just finished praying and was speaking with His disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane. There were no other followers of Jesus around to protect Him. So Judas went up to Jesus and kissed Him, signaling that this was the man whom the Jewish leaders were to seize. When one of the disciples jumped to defend Him, Jesus said, “**Permit even this.**” (Luke 22:51)

## Why do you think Jesus would not let His disciples protect Him?

Jesus was the Lord on earth. He knew exactly what needed to be done to restore spiritual freedom. He knew that He would need to be crucified for people to finally know that He was God, not just a great prophet. It had been prophesied that He would be taken a prisoner, mocked and then killed, and now these prophecies were being fulfilled.



### Jesus is accused

One of the accusations against Jesus was that He claimed to be King of the Jews. During His trial He was asked if He thought He was King. In the Gospel of John, He explained,

“My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.”

When Pilate asked the question again, Jesus replied,

You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

*(John 18:36&37)*

From these words it was made very clear that Jesus is a heavenly King, born to bring the truth to the people of the world. In each of the gospel accounts of this story, Pilate found no fault in the words of Jesus. He was not claiming to want earthly power. But this was not what the high priests, scribes and Pharisees wanted.

## Why do you think they did not agree with Pilate’s judgment?

The Jewish leaders controlled the Jewish church on earth, but Jesus was saying He was King of heaven and He was bringing the truth to people. That made Jesus dangerous to their positions among their own people. If the people recognized Jesus as their spiritual leader, they would no longer look to the priests, scribes and Pharisees.

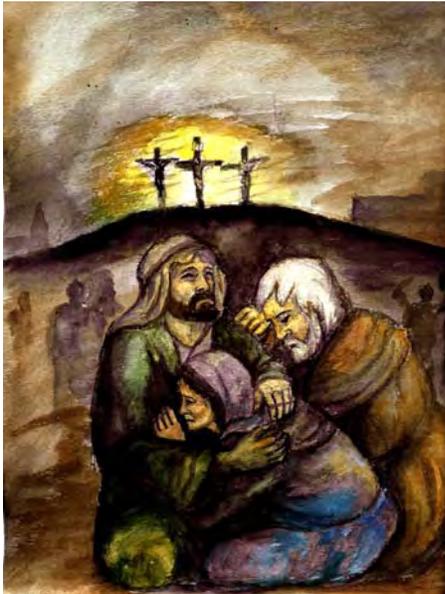
## Jesus is crucified

Through various means the Jewish leaders convinced Pilate that Jesus should be put to death. Pilate went along with it, but still would not convict Jesus of anything. He said it was in the hands of the Jews who claimed Jesus had broken their laws by claiming to be the Son of God.

Pilate presented Jesus to them saying,

**“Behold your king!”** (*John 19:14*)

But the people cried out that He was not their king and insisted that Jesus should be crucified. So Pilate gave Jesus to them and they led Him away. Jesus was made to carry His own cross while some people mocked Him and others mourned for Him. Then Jesus was crucified and words written proclaiming Him King of the Jews were written in Hebrew, Greek and Latin on the cross.



## Easter

You can imagine how devastated the followers of Jesus must have been when they saw their Lord suffering on the cross. They witnessed the darkness that covered the earth in the hours before He died, and the quaking of the earth as He gave up His earthly body.

**What might the Lord’s followers have been thinking at that time?**

There must have been great sadness, even a sense of hopelessness. Perhaps they were afraid that all the promises He had made would not come true. How amazed and excited they must have been when they heard that He had risen—that He was not really dead. Some think the very word Easter probably comes from a word that means spring, a time of new beginnings. Suddenly the people could hope again, they could believe in the truths Jesus had taught them. Most importantly, they could finally see that Jesus was God on earth, born to be a heavenly King—a King over all His creation as the Lord God Jesus Christ.

## Celebrating Easter

Easter is a time we are to remember all that the Lord was and is willing to do for His people. Though we should not dwell on the crucifixion, we can be aware that He suffered terribly. Even in suffering, He totally believed in His mission. People who see a great purpose for something often have to suffer for it. Soldiers who go to war to protect their country may have to give up their lives. People who believe in the Lord’s truths

may be ridiculed by others who do not believe. How much more was the Lord willing to suffer for the greatest goal on earth—the freedom to choose between good and evil.

As you celebrate Easter this year, you can remember the Lord's suffering, but more importantly, we can rejoice in the success of the Lord's mission while He lived on earth. Think of what He accomplished. He brought the heavens into order and conquered the hells. He provided for people's freedom to choose a life of heaven, and He showed how He is indeed our Heavenly King.



# ACTIVITIES

## LESSON 35: EASTER

### 1. LEARN THE RECITATION

**Blessed is the King who comes  
in the name of the Lord!  
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!**

Luke 19:38

### 2. ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

### 3. JOURNAL ACTIVITY

 Describe the Lord's entering of Jerusalem on Palm Sunday from one of the following points of view: A Pharisee, a disciple, or a member of the crowd.

### 4. YOUR BOOK OF STORIES – THE LORD AS A KING

- Add a page to the book you are making.
- **Picture:** Draw a picture of the Palm Sunday scene
- **Calligraphy Quote:** “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest.”

### 5. THE CRUCIFIXION AND THE RESURRECTION

- The resurrection and the crucifixion are both parts of the Easter Story. Follow the instructions to create the project.

### 6. KING OF KINGS

- What is the difference between an earthly king and a heavenly one? Fill out the sheet with your ideas.

### 7. BRINGING THE LESSON INTO YOUR LIFE – REFLECTING ON THE EASTER STORY

- The events of the Easter week are so important because they teach us about the Lord's last week on earth.
- This week spend time on the following days thinking about what was happening in the Easter Story.
- On Sunday, consider His triumphant entry into Jerusalem.
- On Thursday, remember how He started the Holy Supper and prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane.
- On Friday, reflect on His trial and crucifixion.

- On Saturday, imagine how His disciples and others who loved Him felt.
- On Sunday, celebrate the joy and power of His resurrection!

# QUESTIONS

## Lesson 35: Easter

*Fill in the ending to each of the sentences below. Use your knowledge, or refer back to the readings or the lesson.*

1. Jesus came on earth not to be an earthly king, but a...  
\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Jesus fulfilled a prophesy when He entered Jerusalem...  
\_\_\_\_\_.
3. At the time when Jesus was on earth, the Jews were ruled by...  
\_\_\_\_\_.
4. Jesus was hated by the Jewish rulers, including...  
\_\_\_\_\_.
5. Judas betrayed Jesus while He was praying in...  
\_\_\_\_\_.
6. Pilate asked Jesus if He was the...  
\_\_\_\_\_.
7. The words written over the cross were written in the languages...  
\_\_\_\_\_.
8. The Lord was willing to suffer so that...  
\_\_\_\_\_.



# The Crucifixion and the Resurrection

## Lesson 35: Easter

*The sadness of the Lord's crucifixion is bearable because of the joy of His resurrection. They are both part of the Easter story, opposites in some ways, but they go together – you can't have one without the other. It is like our lives, how part of us must die (our selfish feelings and thoughts) so that we can be reborn and become fit for heaven. It is important to acknowledge the difficult part, because it makes the wonderful part possible.*

The two sides of a coin can be considered opposite, but together they make one coin. Follow the directions for the project below to apply this idea to the Easter Story.

1. Cut out a circle of cardboard or thick paper, about 4 inches in diameter (or across).
2. Use it to trace two identical circles on plain white paper. Cut these out.
3. On one plain circle draw a picture of a cross on a hilltop. Use dark and somber colors to color in the picture and the entire background.
4. On the other plain circle draw a picture of Easter morning. Include the empty tomb and at least one angel. Use bright and beautiful colors to color the picture and the entire background.
5. Use a glue stick to glue each picture to one side of your cardboard circle.

Think about the following questions:

1. Which side would you rather have face-up?
2. Which side do you think the angels see?
3. Which side is more important?

He is not here; for He is risen, as He said!!

# King of Kings

## Lesson 35: Easter

*Our theme this year has been “The Lord as the King of Kings”. When He was born on earth, most people who were waiting for Him were expecting Him to set up an earthly kingdom and rule. However, we know that He came for a different purpose. He came to save us and teach us the way to heaven. A Heavenly King is far superior to an earthly one! Fill in the chart below with some differences between an earthly king and the Heavenly King.*

*Need some help?*

- ❖ Think back on the kings that you have learned about, Saul and David. Look back at the list of reasons not to have a king found in Lesson 4.*
- ❖ Think about the Lord’s birth and childhood compared to a royal prince.*
- ❖ Think about the type of people the Lord spent His time with as an adult and who an earthly king would spend time with.*

<b><i>Earthly King</i></b>	<b><i>Heavenly King</i></b>

## LESSON 35

### EASTER

Isaiah 9:6&7; Luke 19:28-38; John 18:28-40

#### OVERVIEW OF THE STORY

- Old Testament prophecies led people to expect that the Lord would come and reign over them as a king.
- The people celebrate his triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.
- Jesus is betrayed by Judas, arrested, and appears before Pilate. Pilate delivers him to be crucified.
- With His glorious resurrection, the Lord shows that His mission was not to be an earthly, but a Heavenly King.



#### THOUGHTS FOR PARENTS

Often we think of Christmas as the most important holiday of the year. The miracle of His birth is almost overwhelming as we contemplate the Lord being born as an innocent baby on earth. It is possible to lose sight of His mission in the affectionate response we have to the Christmas story. On the other hand, the Lord's mission is the heart of the Easter story—the greatest event in the history of the human race. His time of teaching and healing was coming to an end, but the purpose of His life on earth was being realized. He re-established Himself as the King of heaven and earth. With His resurrection the hells were re-ordered, a new heaven was established and the freedom of people to choose good over evil was renewed. The human of Jesus was made fully Divine (glorified). It was not until Easter that anyone actually knew that Jesus was God on earth.

The magnitude of what occurred on Easter is not something children can fully understand, but they begin to appreciate how much the Lord loves people and what He is willing to do to insure their eternal happiness.

- ♦ As Easter approaches, its importance can be shown to young people as they observe parents reading and discussing the events of Easter week—from Palm Sunday to Easter. The holiness of the holiday can be emphasized with special family worships and traditions. The final activity described on the activities sheet might help to determine the parts of the story to focus on.
- ♦ The crucifixion story itself, can be disturbing to children of this age, but the miracle of His resurrection can instill wonder and hope. The stories that follow the

resurrection reinforce the message that there is an afterlife, and even more importantly, that the Lord is always with people.

**FROM THE WORD**

And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. (Matthew 27:20)

Jesus said, I am the Resurrection and the Life; he that believeth in Me, though he die yet shall he live. Everyone that liveth and believeth in Me shall not die forever (John 11:25-26). This, too, the Lord said of His Human; and as He is Life Itself, and all have life from Him, and those who believe in Him have life eternal, therefore He says that He is "the Resurrection and the Life," and "he that believeth in Me shall not die forever;" "to believe in the Lord" signifies to be conjoined to Him in love and faith, and "not to die" signifies not to die spiritually, that is, not to be damned, for the life of the damned is called "death." (Apocalypse Explained 349)

It may appear that "sepulchers," by reason of the dead bodies and inanimate bones therein, signify things infernal, but that "burial" signifies the rejection of these and consequently resurrection; for when a man rejects or puts off his material body he puts on a spiritual body, with which he rises again. For this reason the very death of a person signifies in the spiritual sense the continuation of his life, but in an evil sense it signifies damnation, which is spiritual death. As in respect to people "burial" signifies resurrection and also regeneration, therefore in respect to the Lord it signified the glorification of His Human; for the Lord glorified, that is, made Divine, His entire Human, consequently on the third day He rose again with the Human glorified, that is, made Divine. Unless this had been done, no one could have risen again to life; for a person has resurrection unto life solely from the Lord, and indeed from His having united the Divine with His Human, and from this union, or strictly speaking, glorification, a person has salvation.

(Apocalypse Explained 659)

The Lord came into the world in order to save the human race, which otherwise would have perished in eternal death; and He saved it by this: that He subjugated the hells which were infesting every person that came into the world and that went out of the world; and at the same time by this: that He glorified His Human, for in this way He can hold the hells in subjection to eternity. The subjugation of the hells and the simultaneous glorification of His Human, were effected by means of temptations

admitted into His Human, and by continual victories then. His passion on the cross was the last temptation and the full victory. *(Arcana Coelestia 10828)*

### **HELPING YOUR CHILD**

#### **Help your child get ready to listen to the story from the Word**

- ❖ Ask your child what they think of when they think of Palm Sunday and Easter. Listen to their answers, then guide them to think of higher things such as the Lord rising from the tomb, or springtime if the answers focus more on Easter baskets, eggs *etc.*
- ❖ Share with your child that the word Christ means king.
- ❖ Ask your child if they remember what a prophesy is (for-telling of the future). Ask him or her to recall any prophecies they can—perhaps of the Lord's birth. Tell them that there were also prophecies of Jesus' crucifixion.

#### **Listen to the CD**

- ❖ Remind your child to find Isaiah 9:6 in the Word before turning on the CD. *(If you do not have the CD, read the portion from the Word together.)*



Encourage your child to follow along with the reading in a copy of the Word.

#### **Ideas to discuss together**

- ❖ What kind of king were the people of Jerusalem expecting when Jesus rode into Jerusalem?
- ❖ Why might Judas have betrayed Jesus? (The money, glory, lack of faith in Jesus' mission, fear of harm from the Jewish leaders or???)
- ❖ What reason does Jesus give for coming into the world? (To bear witness to the truth.) If your child enjoys more philosophical discussions, ask him or her to discuss why this answer might frighten the scribes and Pharisees.

#### **Work in the Student Activity Book**

- ❖ Your child should now read the lesson in the Student Activity Book. You may wish to read with your child sometimes.

#### **Activities**

**1. LEARN THE RECITATION**                      Luke 19:38

#### **2. ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS**

1. a heavenly one (king)
2. riding on a donkey

3. the Romans
4. the scribes, Pharisees, and priests
5. the Garden of Gethsemane
6. King of the Jews
7. Hebrew, Greek, and Latin
8. so that we would have the freedom to choose between good and evil.

### **3. JOURNAL ACTIVITY**

As your child decides on a point of view from which to describe Palm Sunday, remind him or her to not only describe what that character sees, but also what the character is thinking.

### **4. BOOK OF STORIES**

Encourage your child to review the details presented in the reading before drawing the picture of Palm Sunday.

### **5. THE CRUCIFIXION AND THE RESURRECTION**

Although the crucifixion is a very necessary part to the Easter story, the New Church teaches that the focus should be on the resurrection. You may want to reinforce this idea with your child as you help him or her gather the materials for the project.

### **6. KING OF KINGS**

Here are some differences between an earthly and heavenly king:

- ✘ Earthly kings live in palaces – the Lord lived in a normal house.
- ✘ Earthly kings are born in grand settings with doctors or midwives – the Lord was born in a stable with only Mary and Joseph there.
- ✘ Earthly kings spend their time with diplomats, other leaders, and servants – the Lord spent His time with the poor and needy.
- ✘ Earthly kings eat the best food – the Lord ate whatever food He was provided.
- ✘ There are many earthly kings – there is only one Heavenly One!

### **7. BRINGING THE LESSON INTO YOUR LIFE – REFLECTING ON THE EASTER STORY**

- ✘ Beginning with Palm Sunday, help your child be aware of the events of the Easter Story as the week passes. Take advantage of opportunities to take Holy Supper on Thursday, attend a prayer or music service Friday, and celebrate Sunday with church and other family traditions.
- ✘ It may help to make a timeline of the events and talk it over with your child before the week begins.
- ✘ Easter is a powerful time to reflect on the Lord's life on earth.

