

RAISING SAINTS



CHILDREN + FAMILY MINISTRY // WEEKLY GUIDE FOR STUDENTS

SECOND PALM SUNDAY LEVEL 1: AGES 5 - 8

This Sunday May 17th, is the seventh Sunday after Easter. The Church has given this Sunday a very special name. We call it Second Palm Sunday. We celebrated the first Palm Sunday a week before Easter. Do you remember the palm branches which you held in church? Probably you walked around the church in a procession with the palm branches remembering how Jesus entered Jerusalem sitting on a donkey.

On May 17th, we will hear the same story from the Bible about Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. In it we will hear how people greeted him with shouts of joy. To find out what they were saying, fill in the blank spaces matching them to the correct colored letters and complete the words.

d n e o

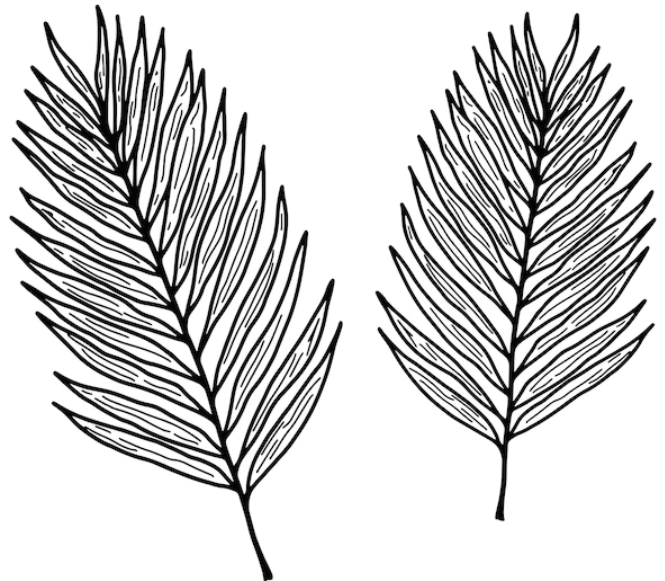
"H _sa _ _a to the S _n of Davi _ !

Bl _ss _d is he who com _s

in the nam _ of the L _r _ !

H _sa _ _a in the high _st!"

We continue to sing the same blessing during every Divine Liturgy. Ask your teacher or your parents to take you to church to hear the choir singing this song. We call this the angelic song because the angels are continually singing this blessing to Christ our God.



Soorp, soorp, soorp, der zo-root-yantz.

Lee yen yer-gink yev yer-gir par-roq qo.

Orh-noo-tioon ee par-tzoons.

Orh-nyal vor ye-gir yev ka-lotzt yes an-vamp diarn.

Ov-san-na ee par-tzoons.

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord of powers;
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Praise be in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
and will come again in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

During Badarak, join the angels and sing with them this Holy, holy, holy.

LEVEL 2: AGES 9 - 12 & LEVEL 3: AGES 13 - 17



www.heartmybackpack.com

We celebrated Easter six weeks ago and this coming Sunday, May 17th is the Seventh Sunday of Eastertide, also known as Second Palm Sunday. It may sound odd that there would be a second Palm Sunday. When you learn the reasons, it will all make sense. The first is linked to the assigned daily scripture readings. In the Armenian Church after the Feast of the Resurrection a daily passage from all four gospels is read. Thus, until the Feast of Pentecost all four gospels are read in their entirety. The passages which are read on the Seventh Sunday of Eastertide happen to be describing Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem when he was greeted with "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the LORD. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" Hence, the descriptive name of Second Palm Sunday is given.

- The second reason is a legend from our Armenian Church history. We know that St. Gregory the Enlightener refused to worship the pagan gods ordered by King Tirdat. As a result, the king had

him imprisoned in a deep dungeon. Gregory remained in that dungeon for thirteen years surrounded by snakes and scorpions, exposed to many dangers. His only source of light was a small opening at the top of the dungeon. Legend tells us that an angel from heaven visited him daily, bringing solace and encouragement to endure his sufferings. During her visits Gregory's dark dungeon was transformed into luminous heaven. The angel in essence made God present to Gregory. One day, on the fourth day after the Feast of the Ascension, the angel did not come. When she returned the next day Gregory asked the reason for her absence. The angel explained, "Each year the nine ranks of angels celebrate and glorify the triumphant entry of Jesus Christ into heaven. This celebration lasts for nine days, each day assigned to one of the nine ranks of angels. Since I belong to the fourth rank, I needed to be with my group and celebrate Christ's entry into heaven on the fourth day."

For Level 2: Ages 9-12

We learned that the Ascension of Jesus Christ back into heaven fulfills or completes his mission to save humanity. Through his birth, his ministry of teaching and healing, his crucifixion and burial, and his resurrection he accomplished what God the Father had asked his Son to do.

1. Why do you think the Church has planned the reading of all four gospels from beginning to end from Easter until Pentecost?

a. Think about how you learn in school. When your teacher assigns a reading in science, social studies, or literature you may have to read it more than once. A second reading gives you an opportunity to understand it and make better sense of it.

b. Reading the gospels from beginning to end, from Jesus' birth, his growing years, his ministry, and finally his sacrifice on the cross may invite you to think what this all means to you, personally, as a follower or disciple of Jesus.

i. What are some questions you may have?

ii. What feelings come up when you read about his crucifixion, his resurrection, and his Ascension?

Write about it on the notepad and share it with your class or at home with your parents.



Having read about St. Gregory's experience with King Tirdat, we come to know that Gregory was a faithful follower of Jesus Christ. Because of his love and devotion to the Lord St. Gregory was able to withstand the pressures of the king and did not worship the idols, at the cost of being imprisoned for 13 years in the dungeon. He became a great witness of Jesus Christ.

1. In our country we have freedom to worship our Lord Jesus Christ. What are some ways in which you give testimony of your love for Jesus Christ?

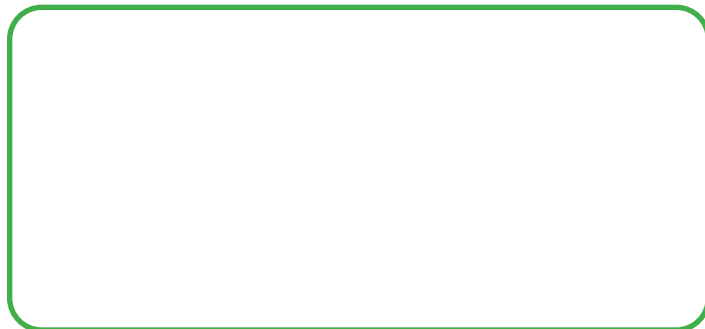
2. St. Gregory had the guardian angel who came to encourage him and help him in the dungeon. When you find yourself in difficult situations, who helps you so that you can remain faithful to Jesus Christ?

Level 3: Ages 13-17

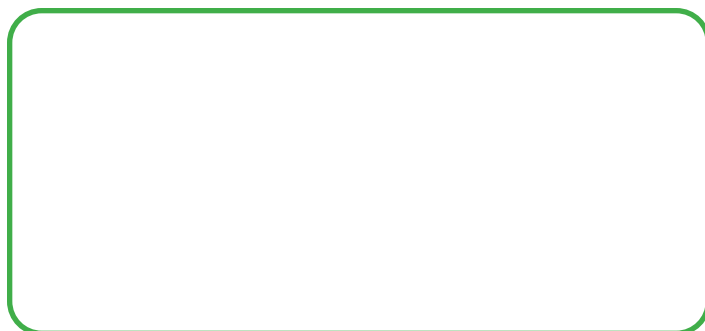
Our attention is drawn and focused on the triumphant entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem before his crucifixion, and then through St. Gregory's experience in the dungeon we are invited to ponder the joyous celebrations that go on in heaven as the angels celebrate Jesus Christ's triumphant entry into the heavenly Jerusalem.

1. Consider the very dangerous, isolated, and dark environment of the dungeon where Gregory spent thirteen years. He was totally isolated, except for the angel's daily visits to encourage him and support him. The angel's presence filled the darkness of the pit with heavenly light, which enabled Gregory to endure his sufferings, always relying on God's presence.

2. Your life circumstances are far different than Gregory's in the dungeon. Yet, as human beings we all experience moments of difficult decisions, isolation from friends, deprivation, loneliness, and more. Think about your difficulties which challenge you. How do you face them, is there someone who gives you support, inspires you with hope, or sheds light on your decision making? Write your thoughts here.



3. How does your knowledge about Jesus Christ's triumphant entry into the heavenly Jerusalem affect your attitude towards the challenges you might be facing in life?



4. What are moments when you have felt the soothing heavenly light filling your life, as it did St. Gregory's life in the dungeon? Share your thoughts.



Join the angels in heaven and sing Soorp, Soorp during Divine Liturgy. This is the song which the angels in heaven sing continuously to Christ our God.

Soorp, soorp, soorp, der zo-root-yantz.

Lee yen yer-gink yev yer-gir par-roq qo.

Orh-noo-tioon ee par-tzoons.

Orh-nyal vor ye-gir yev ka-lotzt yes

an-vamp diarn.

Ov-san-na ee par-tzoons.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord of powers;

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Praise be in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes

and will come again

in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

May Jesus Christ's love
and his light fill your hearts always.

YN. SIRARPI AIVAZIAN