

March 29, 2015

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross

Who was this person called Jesus Christ? And can we name two things he taught us all ?

In a few minutes I am going to pose these questions ...

Today.. Palm Sunday... Christians all over the world celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, the week before his death and resurrection.

For many Christian churches including our own at IDOM and within the Episcopal Church and the Anglican tradition, Palm Sunday, often referred to as "Passion Sunday," marks the beginning of Holy Week, which concludes next Sunday, which is of course, Easter Sunday.

Palm Sunday..... today..... is a time for two very different moods, from triumph to despair from humility and truth to pain and death.

The Bible reveals that when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the crowds greeted him by waving palm branches and covering his path with their garments and palm fronds.

He entered Jerusalem like a Rock Star, but he didn't ride in a golden chariot...rather he rode humbly on the back of a young colt.

In our procession today, we reenacted the triumphant progress of our Lord into Jerusalem.....but if we had been there we would have seen the humility of Jesus shining through all the waving and cheering and shouts of hosanna.!!!

Then we heard what we call "the Passion Gospel" describing our Lord's final journey as a human being to the cross at Calvary.

A very different procession....with a very different mood.

At this point I ask all children to come forward and gather round me .

So who is this Jesus Christ we hear so much about?

----- CHILDREN'S ANSWERS -----

Thank you very much....now let me add a few thoughts to your excellent words.

Jesus is God. Sometimes we call him the Son of Man, sometimes God's only son. But Jesus was and is God sent by the Father to fully understand and be able to relate to our experiences as human beings.

Jesus is also part of the Trinity.....I know it is an extra question but does anyone know what The Trinity is?

----- CHILDREN'S ANSWERS -----

Some years ago Father Rosa showed me a great way of showing how God the Father , God the Son and God the Holy Spirit , that is "The Trinity" is in fact one.

(Light three candles and intermingle the flames) ...Can you see how three candle flames become one flame which is the same size and color as each of the three individual flames.

There is another way of describing Jesus as part of the Trinity.

Have you ever thought that water comes in three distinct or different forms but they are all water. Can you name those different forms?

----- CHILDREN'S ANSWERS -----

Yes water.. you can swim in or drink, but preferably not at the same time.

Then there is ice, which we have seen a lot of, probably too much in recent weeks, but which is solid and which you can skate on....go Blackhawks !!

And then there is a third form of water...the form that comes out of a tea kettle when it is boiling.....steam...or water vapor? Can you name something in the sky that is water vapor that you see every day? Clouds of course.

Three forms but just one substance. So it is with the Trinity one God but in three forms which are..... CHILDREN'S ANSWERSthat is correct God the Father , God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Now for the second question.....What are two things that Jesus taught us?

-----CHILDREN'S ANSWERS -----

Good answers but perhaps most of all Jesus taught us love and humility.

Jesus taught us as human beings to love each other unconditionally in just the same way as God loves . No matter what our differences skin color, the way we talk, where we work, how much money we have, the color of our hairnone of it matters. We are all God's children and if He loves us equally and completely then I know we are able to love each other the same way.

Then we have humility....what is humility?

----- CHILDREN'S ANSWERS -----

Good answers but let me give you just a few more.....

- Giving the last cookie to your brother or sister or to a friend is being humble.
- Being a mom and dad can be a very humble job, wiping noses, changing diapers, and meeting a child's every need for years.
- Letting someone ahead of you in line when you see they are in a hurry is being humble..
- Cleaning the bathroom of your workplace, even if it is not really your job, is an example of humility.
- After realizing that she had made a huge mistake in blaming her workmate for the computer error she had made, the

- workmate learned the importance of humility and no longer thought that she was always right.
- In England even though Princess Kate Middleton married into British royalty, she still likes to do her own grocery shopping and cooking. Boy that's humility for you.
 - Being kind to someone instead of always wanting to be right is being humble.

We have talked about some pretty important stuff today. We have described who Jesus is, that he taught us to love each other and be humble.

Though he was God, Jesus Christ came to the Earth as a baby, being born in the humble environment of a stable. During his public ministry, even though he was a king, he owned nothing and did not have a home to live in.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross.... Amen.

Thank you so much for your help...why don't you stay up here with us for saying the Creed together....in our Bulletin..

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