

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD



Merciful Messiah

Almighty God,
look with mercy on your people,
and grant us forgiveness.
Increase our faith
as we honor Jesus, our messiah,
who brings us to new life in you.

May we praise you with our whole heart,
following the humble example of your Son.
Take away our sinfulness
and lead us to the joy of your kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, April 10, 2022

True Love



Today's readings: Luke 19:28–40; Isaiah 50:4–7; Psalm 22:8–9, 17–18, 19–20, 23–24; Philippians 2:6–11; Luke 22:14–23:56. In the celebration of Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, the tenor of the readings begins with joyous acclaims of hosanna to later change to horrifying calls for Jesus' death. On this Sunday, the Gospel reading of the procession portrays crowds regarding Jesus as a king, but in the Gospel during the Liturgy of the Word, our Lord is mocked.

No matter how the people treated Jesus, he was true to himself and the mission God gave him. As St. Paul tells us in the Letter to the Philippians, "he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death." When Jesus was

about to be arrested, he healed the high priest's servant and called on his disciples to refrain from violence. And when asked if he is the Christ, Jesus only responded by saying, "You say so."

In his passion, Jesus teaches us that no matter the circumstance, we are to remain true to the person God has created us to be. Through such authentic living, we carry our cross, turn from our old way of living, and allow our heart to be open to God. Luke's account of the Gospel records that all of Jesus' "acquaintances stood at a distance." As we observe his passion and death today, we can stand by his cross, acclaiming in our hearts, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 11 Servant to All

Our first reading is a part of the servant songs in the Book of Isaiah. These are also known as the songs of the suffering servant; the others are found in Isaiah 49, 50, and 52–53. The prophecies within these songs point to Jesus, who brought justice and peace to all people and yet endured great suffering for us. Give thanks to Jesus today by serving another without counting to cost to you. *Today's readings: Isaiah 42:1–7; Psalm 27:1, 2, 3, 13–14; John 12:1–11.*

Tuesday, April 12 Chrism Mass

During Holy Week, the Church celebrates the Chrism Mass, at which the oil of catechumens and the oil of the sick are blessed, and the sacred chrism is consecrated for use that year. Pray for all priests, who serve the people of God in parishes and diocese around the world through the administration of the sacraments and in countless other ways. *Today's readings: Isaiah 49:1–6; Psalm 71:1–2–4a, 5ab–6ab, 15 and 17; John 13:21–33, 36–38.*

Wednesday, April 13 Betrayals

Judas betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver, and later regretted his actions. Jesus knew that a close friend would turn him over to the authorities. All of us have made unkind comments or poor choices that have betrayed, hurt, or defamed another person. Take quiet prayer time today to pray for those you have hurt. Ask God to help you forgive yourself for what you said or did, and for his grace of unending mercy. *Today's readings: Isaiah 50:4–9a; Psalm 69:8–10, 21–22, 31 and 33–34; Matthew 26:14–25.*

Thursday, April 14 Servant Leadership

During the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, the Church celebrates Jesus' gift of the Eucharist but also the Lord's modeling of servant leadership. During the Passover meal, Jesus, "fully aware that the Father had put everything into his power," bent to wash the feet of his disciples. Enter into the Sacred Paschal Triduum tonight by participating at Mass in your parish. *Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper: Exodus 12:1–8, 11–14; Psalm 116:12–13, 15–16bc, 17–18; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26; John 13:1–15.*

Friday, April 15 All for You

Jesus died on the cross to raise us to new life in the Spirit. As Christians, we are called to commend our spirit to God, and fully surrender our lives to him. Pray with a sincere heart today, remembering all that Jesus has done for you. *Celebration of the Lord's Passion: Isaiah 52:13–53:12; Psalm 31:2, 6, 12–13, 15–16, 17, 25; Hebrews 4:14–16, 5:7–9; John 18:1–19:42.*

Saturday, April 16 Most Holy Night

At the Easter Vigil, the high point of the liturgical year, those who have been preparing for the initiation sacraments received baptism, confirmation, and the Eucharist. Pray with and welcome these new members of the Church. *Today's readings: Genesis 1:1–2:2; Psalm 104:1–2, 5–6, 10, 12, 13–14, 24, 35 or Psalm 33:4–5, 6–7, 12–13, 20–22; Genesis 22:1–18; Psalm 16:5, 8, 9–10, 11; Exodus 14:15–15:1; Exodus 15:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 17–18; Isaiah 54:5–14; Psalm 30:2, 4, 5–6, 11–12, 13; Isaiah 55:1–11; Isaiah 12:2–3, 4, 5–6; Baruch 3:9–15, 32–4:4; Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Ezra 3:6–17a, 18–28; Psalm 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 or Isaiah 12:2–3, 4bcd, 5–6 or Psalm 51:12–13, 14–15, 18–19; Romans 6:3–11; Psalm 118:1–2, 16–17, 22–23; Luke 24:1–12.*

