

ZION GATE  
JERUSALEM

Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord!

MATTHEW 21:9

APRIL 5  
2020

# Palm Sunday

OF THE PASSION  
OF THE LORD

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## *Holy Week And The Paschal Triduum*

Sunday, March 28 - Sunday, April 4, 2010

"The days of Jesus' life-giving death and glorious resurrection are approaching, the hour he triumphed over Satan's pride, the time we celebrate the great event of our redemption" (Preface of the Lord's Passion II, Sacramentary). Thus the Church begins the one week of the year that we formally designate as "Holy." Simple rituals can link the domestic church to parish church and Church universal. Enthroned Sunday's palms where you pray, behind the family crucifix, even as part of front door decorations: "Christ reigns here," they proclaim; "all are welcome!" During the first three days of Holy Week, ready Easter clothes, prepare festal foods, clean the house, beautify the yard. Late Holy Thursday afternoon, share Lent's final meal before the Lord's Supper Mass. Pitcher, bowl, and towel make a fitting centerpiece; perhaps conclude the meal by washing each other's feet. On Good Friday, observe the paschal fast from food—from TV and computer, too! Then come to Holy Saturday's Vigil with mind clear, stomach empty, and heart full of "holy anticipation" that bursts into living flame when the new fire is kindled.

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

### **PRAYER IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC**

O God of compassion,  
your people are anxious  
in this time of pandemic.  
Send your Holy Spirit among us  
to dispel our fears.  
We cry out to you in our confusion;  
comfort us in our affliction.  
Grant our leaders wisdom to guide us.  
Strengthen and sustain those who are ill,  
and be with those who care for them.  
Help us to travel this road  
in solidarity with our neighbors,  
with our eyes fixed on the salvation  
promised us through the death and resurrection  
of your Son,  
who is Lord forever and ever.  
Amen.

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## *Readings for the Week*

**Monday:** Is 42:1-7; Ps 27:1-3, 13-14; Jn 12:1-11  
**Tuesday:** Is 49:1-6; Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17;  
Jn 13:21-33, 36-38  
**Wednesday:** Is 50:4-9a; Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34;  
Mt 26:14-25  
**Thursday:** Chrism Mass: Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9;  
Ps 89:21-22, 25, 27; Rv 1:5-8;  
Lk 4:16-21  
**Lord's Supper:** Ex 12:1-8, 11-14;  
Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18;  
1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15  
**Friday:** Is 52:13 — 53:12; Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13,  
15-17, 25; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9;  
Jn 18:1 — 19:42  
**Saturday:**  
a) Gn 1:1 — 2:2 [1:1, 26-31a];  
Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35; or  
Ps 33:4-7, 12-13, 20-22;  
b) Gn 22:1-18 [1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18]; Ps 16: 5, 8-11;  
c) Ex 14:15 — 15:1; Ex 15:1-6, 17-18;  
d) Is 54:5-14; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13;  
e) Is 55:1-11; Is 12:2-6;  
f) Bar 3:9-15, 32 — 4:4; Ps 19:8-11;  
g) Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28; Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3-4 or  
Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 or Ps 51:12-15, 18-19;  
h) Rom 6:3-11; i) Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23;  
Mt 28:1-10  
**Sunday:** Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Ps 118:1-2, 16-17,  
22-23; Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8;  
Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10 or  
(at an afternoon or evening Mass)  
Lk 24:13-35



## *Today's Readings*

**Gospel at the Procession with Palms — Jesus' entry into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-11).**

**First Reading** — In spite of my sufferings I am not disgraced. I am not put to shame (Isaiah 50:4-7).

**Psalm** — My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? (Psalm 22).

**Second Reading** — Christ emptied himself, and God filled this emptiness with exaltation (Philippians 2:6-11).

**Gospel** — The account of Christ's passion according to Matthew (Matthew 26:14 — 27:66 [27:11-54]).

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## *Five Simple Ways to Celebrate Holy Week at Home*

*Create a simple prayer space in your home, and gather there to pray during the week.*

**Palm Sunday:** At your regular Mass time, read the first Palm Sunday Gospel (Mt 21:1–11) and meditate on or discuss what Jesus might be thinking as he enters Jerusalem for the last time.

**Holy Thursday:** Bake bread for sharing at dinner; make a ritual of stripping the dinner table of all cloths and decorations after dinner.

**Good Friday:** Pray the Stations of the Cross at 3 p.m.

**Holy Saturday:** In the morning, read Psalm 64 and break your Good Friday fast solemnly with a simple meal.

**Easter Sunday:** Dress up the dinner table again. Include candles and crosses, so that the candy baskets aren't the only festive items present. Sing Alleluia and read the Easter Gospel (Matthew 28:1-10) with solemnity and joy.

Look online for other suggestions for celebrating Holy Week at home, to deepen and enrich your experience at this time of social isolation.

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The journey of Lent brings us to an encounter with the cross. During Lent, we have been led more deeply into questions at the heart of our faith: Who is God? And who are we, the Church? The Gospel of Matthew indicates that, in the crucifixion, God's true nature is most fully revealed in Jesus. In Jesus, God is the self-emptying One, who embraces humility and suffers rejection, as Paul tells the Philippians. God's power is redefined, present not in coercion and violence, but in Jesus' unbounded love. We the Church can learn who we are, the followers of the Crucified One, when we bear crosses that offer life and hope to the world. We more fully become the Church when we empty ourselves by sharing in others' sufferings, rejecting violence, and taking risks for justice and reconciliation. Like Jesus, we may reveal God's power as compassion and mercy.

### *Enduring Hope*

Today's passage from Isaiah presents us with a common human dilemma: what do we do with our suffering? The speaker describes himself as God's faithful servant, who suffers beatings and mockery. We can't be sure who the speaker is, but we can see his extraordinary response. He chooses not to fight back, not to respond to violence with violence. He chooses to endure with hope that God, in God's own way, will deliver and vindicate him. Christians later saw this passage as a poignant description of Jesus' suffering in his passion. We all have many experiences of tragic or undeserved suffering. We might desire to run from our pain, or to

inflict suffering upon others, or to live in despair. In faith, we are invited to share in the suffering of Jesus, sharing also with all who suffer similarly. We can place our wounds in God's hands. We may live in enduring hope that Christ is indeed present and accompanies us in our pain. In God's own way, our suffering may be transformed, so to serve God's purposes.

### *A New Kingdom*

The Gospel of Matthew, using various symbols from scripture, presents Jesus as the true and victorious king who begins a new kingdom. After his royal entrance into Jerusalem, Jesus ascends his scandalous and paradoxical throne, the cross. The cross reveals the nature of his kingdom, based on God's forgiveness and sacrificial love. Evil forces thrive when violence stirs even more violence. By accepting his suffering and offering forgiveness, Jesus broke the primary cycle of violence. The Gospels proclaim that the powers of evil, though continuing their effects today, were decisively defeated on the cross. The resurrection of Jesus launches the reign of God, which will be fully complete upon Jesus' return. We are now offered a new path for being human by which, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we may partner with God to create new cycles of life and hope.

Today's Readings: Mt 21:1–11; Isa 50:4–7; Ps 22:8–9, 17–18, 19–20, 23–24; Phil 2:6–11; Mt 26:14 — 27:66 [27:11–54]

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April 5, 2020

At the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend . . .  
and every tongue confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Philippians 2:10, 11

# Palm Sunday

## OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

### *Treasures From Our Tradition*

Most Christians today receive a bunch of palm fronds, olive branches, pussy willow, or forsythia (a relative of the olive) to carry in procession and to bear home in blessing. Some even offer sprigs of palm or other branches as a gesture of peace to those they have offended. The desire is to make a clean sweep of your spiritual house before the Easter feast.

Accepting the branch is a token of the bearer's willingness to journey with the Church through a grateful remembrance of Jesus Christ's passion, death, and life-giving resurrection. Traditionally, the plants associated with today's feast are planted in cemeteries as a sign of Christ's victory over death and the promise of new life.

The joy of this day's opening procession soon gives way to a solemn reading of the Passion, this year according to Matthew. The ritual is meant not only to strengthen us to hear this account, but to stir us up to accompany the Church on this journey through Holy Week. It also prepares us for next Sunday's joyful renewal of our baptismal vows.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

### *Hosanna!*

"Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest" (Matthew 21:9). With these words the Church enters the holiest of weeks, commemorating the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ. When the people of Jerusalem cried out with their "hosannas," they were using an ancient Hebrew shout of acclamation that meant "Pray, save us." The king to whom they were shouting eventually would save them, but in a way that would be far from what they expected. Salvation would come from the wood of the cross as Jesus hung there to bring freedom from sin and life through death, opening the gates of heaven for all who put their faith and trust in him.

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### *Saints and Special Observances*

**Sunday:** Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord  
**Monday:** Monday of Holy Week  
**Tuesday:** Tuesday of Holy Week  
**Wednesday:** Wednesday of Holy Week; Passover begins  
**Thursday:** Holy Thursday; The Sacred Paschal Triduum  
**Friday:** Friday of the Passion of the Lord  
 (Good Friday); Fast and Abstinence  
**Saturday:** The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night;  
 Holy Saturday

### *The Cross*

We should glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered.

—Entrance Antiphon, Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, The Roman Missal

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Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass

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# God's Word for Children



## Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

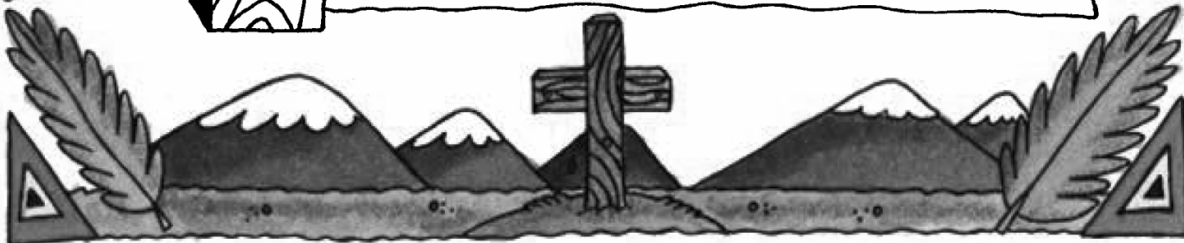
People are willing to do many things for those they love.

But do you know what Jesus was willing to do?

Find and use the nine hidden words in the cross to complete the "Greatest Love Story" ever!

A large cross is drawn on the left side of the worksheet. Inside the cross, the following words are hidden: "love" (vertical, top arm), "died" (vertical, top arm), "obedient" (horizontal, left arm), "sins" (horizontal, right arm), "someone" (horizontal, right arm), "Jesus" (vertical, bottom arm), "punishment" (vertical, bottom arm), "time" (vertical, bottom arm), and "world" (vertical, bottom arm). To the right of the cross is a worksheet with a grid of lines for writing. The text on the worksheet is as follows:

When the \_\_\_\_\_ came,  
Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ and  
went to the cross. There he  
suffered and \_\_\_\_\_  
to take away the  
\_\_\_\_\_ for  
our \_\_\_\_\_. He did this out  
of his deep \_\_\_\_\_ for  
everyone in the \_\_\_\_\_. Tell  
\_\_\_\_\_ today, what  
\_\_\_\_\_ did for them!



## Palm Sunday My Will Be Done

One of the most comforting parts of the Passion story for me is the agony in the garden. That might sound odd, considering how the disciples fall asleep while Jesus is in distress. I suppose I could identify with them as they show weakness when Jesus needed strength. But I am really comforted by Jesus' words. If the Son of God had to tell himself and his Father, "not as I will, but as you will" (Matthew 26:39), I should be able to say the same. There are times when I would much rather have things always go my way, but that is not going to happen. So it's comforting to know that Jesus did not take the easy way out, but accepted the Father's will that he should suffer and die.

Whenever we say the Lord's Prayer we pray, "Thy will be done." But how often do we still take the easy way out? Ever hear someone tell a lie or spreading gossip that hurts a person's reputation? We can choose to do nothing (the easy way) or gently reproach the other with a simple question, "What would Jesus do?" When I have a chance to help someone in need, do I tell myself it's none of my business, or do I ask if there is anything I can do? When I am hurt by the death of a loved one, or am injured in an accident, do I get angry at God for letting this happen, or do I say with Jesus, "Not my will, but yours be done"?

Luke's Gospel ends the temptation of Jesus in the desert with the phrase, "When the devil had finished every test, he left him until an opportune time" (Luke 4:13). That time came in the garden. and again Jesus had the last word, choosing to do his Father's will. Our temptations continue every day as we face frustrations, desire for things we can't have, unanswered prayers, or our own weaknesses. Even though we know God always does what is best for us when we would rather have what we think is best, at least remember to say, "Not my will, but yours be done."

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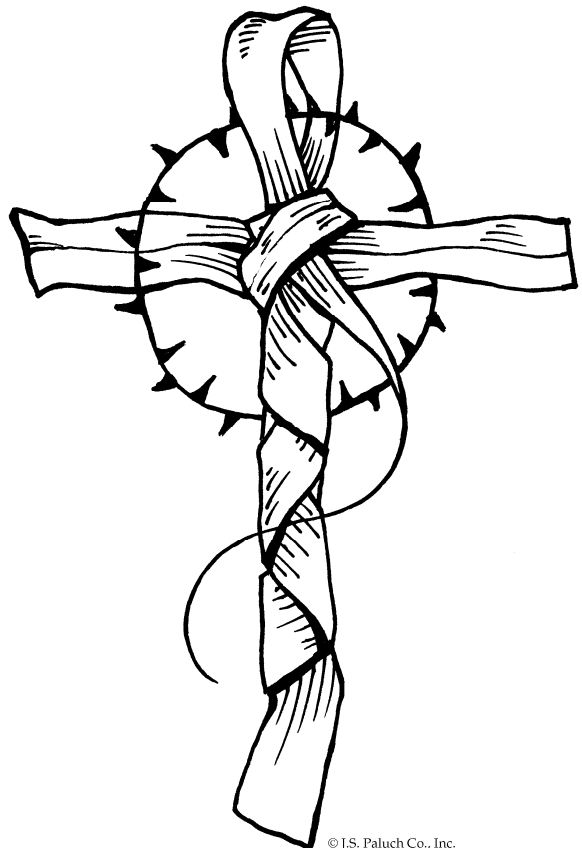


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# Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

## April 5, 2020

God greatly exalted [Christ]  
and bestowed on him the name  
which is above every name.

— *Philippians 2:9*



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