

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD



Entering the Story

Almighty and ever-living God,
bring us into the story of your Son's passion
and death.

As he enters his sacred city,
shake us out of our pride and self-interest.
As he perseveres when people turn
against him,
reveal the ways we betray and abandon him.

As he stoops to wash feet,
prostrates himself in prayer,
and bears the burden of his cross,
forgive us for having failed to do the same.
And as our Lord pours his Spirit out upon us,
remake us in his image.
Help us follow him through the darkness
and into eternal light and life with you.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, April 5, 2020

Shaken

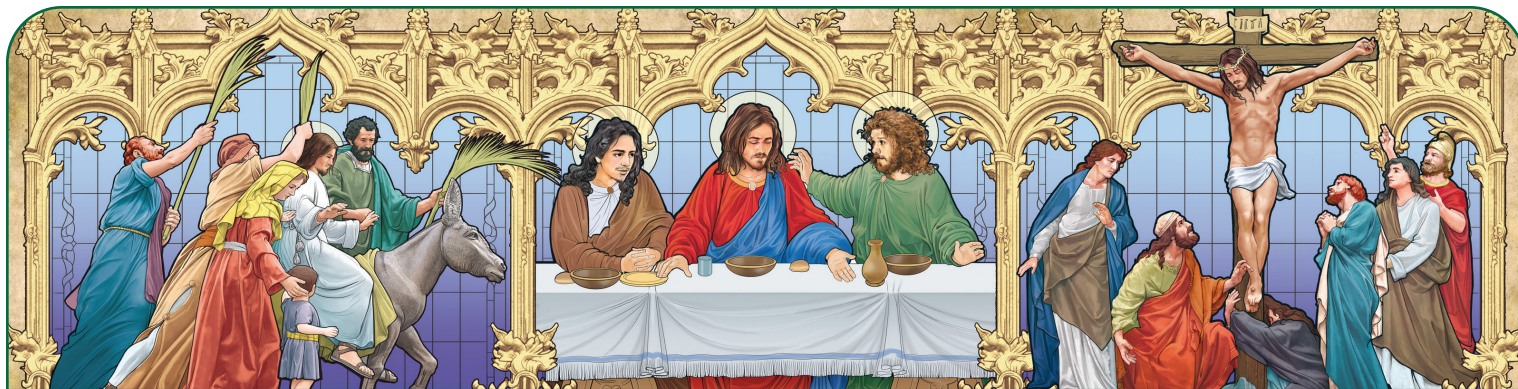


Today's Readings: Matthew 21:1–11; Isaiah 50:4–7; Psalm 22:8–9, 17–18, 19–20, 23–24; Philippians 2:6–11; Matthew 26:14–27:66. As we hear in the opening Gospel, the city is “shaken.” People wonder who is entering their midst. During the short time Jesus spends in the city, he only rattles its residents more. He attacks the temple, the Torah, and the Jewish authorities until it all becomes too much—too much judgment, too much upheaval, too much change, and they put an end to it. They put an end to him.

But the shaking continues. Darkness enfolds the land, the earth quakes, and tombs split open as holy people are raised up. Creation proclaims what the people fail to accept:

the crucified Jesus is lord of all—lord of Jerusalem, lord of the nations, lord of heaven and earth. Let all creation bend the knee to the Lord.

All creation shook with homage to the Lord. Now it is our turn. The season of Lent gave us time to be shaken out of our complacency, to make changes, and to bend our knee before the Lord. We only have one week left to prepare ourselves for the holiest time of our liturgical year. This week we can open ourselves to being shaken still further by the only one who can rebuild our lives and ensure that we are never shaken again.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 6 The Lord of Life

As Jesus anticipates his death, we notice a terrible irony. People want to kill the one who raised a man from the dead. Moreover, Jesus is the servant God sent into the world. The Father, who breathes life into people and sustains creation with his Spirit, sent his Son to lead people out of darkness, to open their eyes and give them life. Although the people will crucify this servant, he will rise from the dead. During the Sacrament of Reconciliation, confess the ways you have harmed others. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 42:1–7; Psalm 27:1, 2, 3, 13–14; John 12:1–11.*

Tuesday, April 7 Failures

When Jesus speaks of his glorification, he refers not only to being raised up to new life but also to being raised up on the cross. He undergoes his glorification as one friend betrays him and another denies knowing him. Jesus is the servant who seems to have accomplished nothing, to have failed in revealing his Father to the world. As God declared to his servant, however, Jesus' work has not been in vain. Should you try again at something you had given up on? *Today's Readings: Isaiah 49:1–6; Psalm 71:1–2, 3–4a, 5ab–6ab, 15 and 17; John 13:21–33, 36–38.*

Wednesday, April 8 Facing It

We hear again from God's servant, who perseveres in doing God's will despite offensive and painful mockery. As Jesus eats with his disciples for the last time, he knows what he will endure because of his ministry, yet he "sets his face like flint" and remains steadfast. Despite all that is done to him, he will neither falter nor be ashamed. Is there a particular conflict you have been avoiding? How can you face it calmly and prayerfully? *Today's Readings: Isaiah 50:4–9a; Psalm 69:8–10, 21–22, 31 and 33–34; Matthew 26:14–25.*

Thursday, April 9 Holy Thursday

As Jesus celebrates the liberation of his people from Egypt and the many blessings God had bestowed, he prepares his disciples for the blessings of eternal life that God bestows through him. To share in this new life, we must be humble and selfless enough to give up the lives we have now. Read and pray with John 17. *Today's Readings: 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 10 Good Friday

God's servant offers himself up for judgment. Like Pilate, our decision about Jesus becomes a statement about us. We profess that Jesus is God's Son and our Savior, but have we followed his way, accepted his truth, and welcomed his life? Surround yourself with as much silence as you can today. *Today's Readings: 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 11 The Easter Vigil

Ancient texts are proclaimed to us this holy night, but even these could not prepare people for the Resurrection. Creation again shakes in fear and wonder, yet we are told not to be afraid but to embrace our Risen Lord and to go quickly to share this joyous news. *Today's Readings: Genesis 1:1–2:2 or 1:1, 26–31a; 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 or 22:1–2, 9a, 10–13, 15–18; 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; Ezekiel 36:16–17a, 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; Matthew 28:1–10.*

