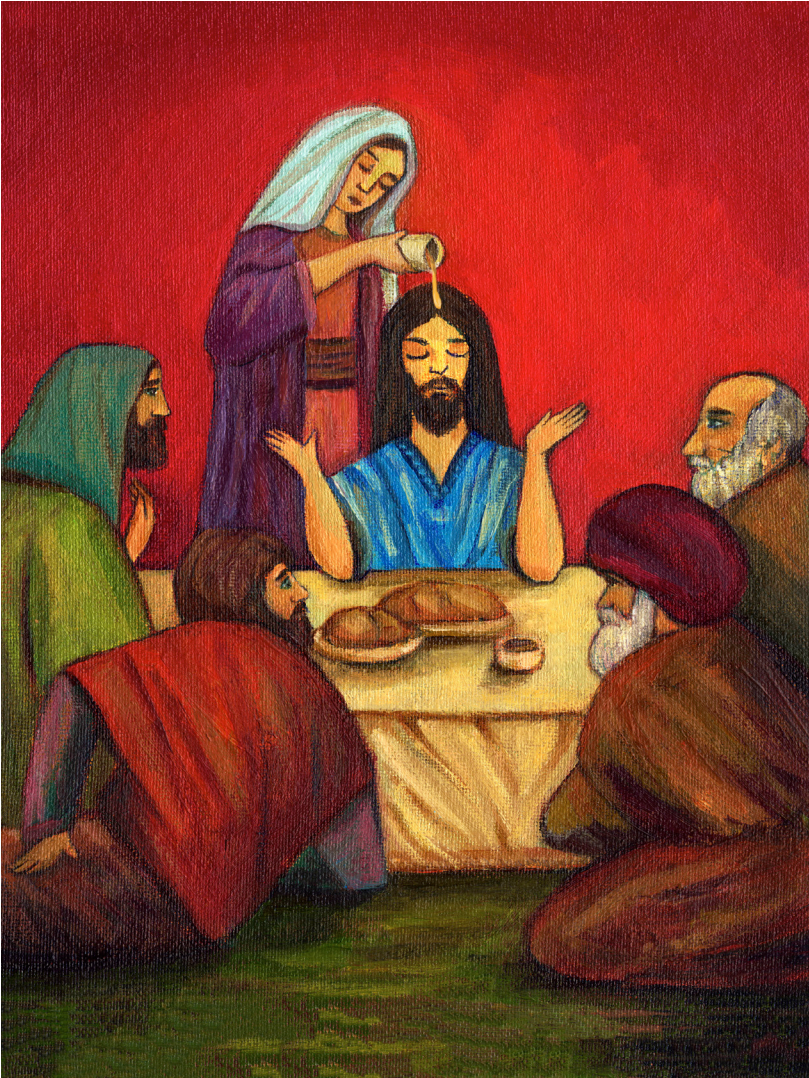


PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD



Worthy Vessels

Eternal and glorious God,
you sent your Son, Jesus, to redeem us.
Bring your Holy Spirit upon each of us
and like the anointing at Bethany,
may your Spirit anoint us with your love
and make us worthy vessels ready to
pour out your gift of mercy.

Give us generous hearts
so that, transformed by Jesus' Passion
and renewed in his Resurrection,
our lives may become signs of your
generosity, love, and peace.

Grant us, O Lord,
the courage to embrace the cross,
which calls us to put aside our desires
and witness to the victory over sin
and death.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 25, 2018

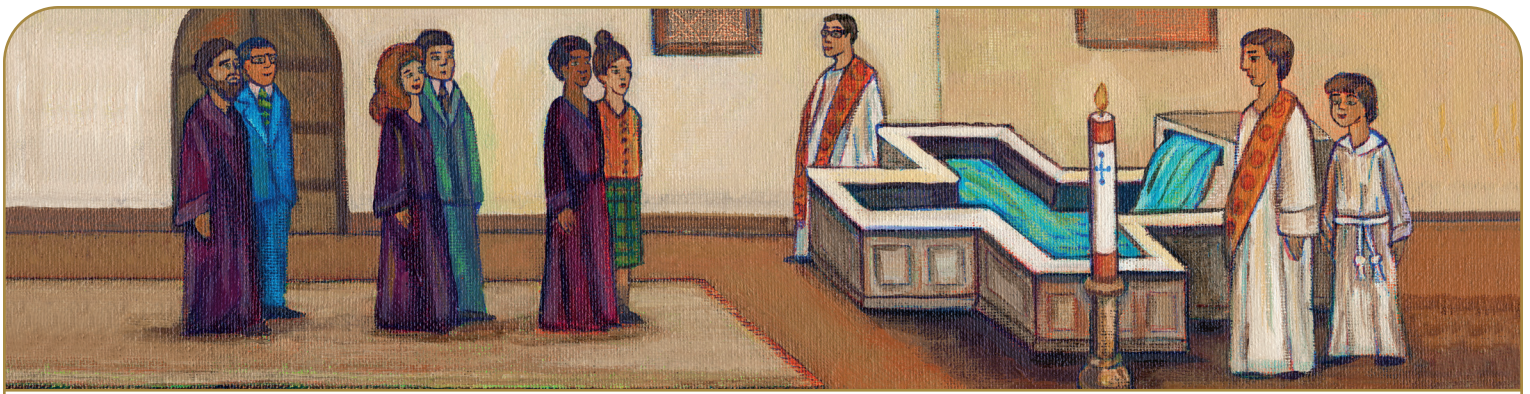
Triumph and Suffering



Today's Readings: Mark 11:1–10 or John 12:12–16; Isaiah 50:4–7; Psalm 22:8–9, 17–18, 19–20, 23–24; Philippians 2:6–11; Mark 14:1–15:47. As we begin the holiest week of the liturgical year, the liturgy is filled with emotion. During the past five weeks, the Church has taken time to ponder God's mercy. At the same time, each of us has confronted our sin to prepare our hearts for the fullness of life promised by the Paschal Mystery of Christ. At the procession the Gospel is filled with excitement as Jesus triumphantly enters Jerusalem. Is this a foreshadowing of the triumph of the Resurrection? Imagine the crowds that might have gathered and spread their cloaks as Jesus entered the city. At Mass, after the Preface, we still sing "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" At every liturgy, Christ,

who reigns in glory, is present and nourishes us so we should sing *Hosanna*.

As the liturgy progresses, the mood changes and we hear the passage of the Suffering Servant and the anguish in Psalm 22, which both prepare us to hear the story of the Passion. When have you prayed the words of Psalm 22? When all of these readings are proclaimed together, we learn that Christ is the servant who suffered and died for our sins. Even though the Passion narrative is filled with sorrow, Mark's Gospel account presents us with a strong confirmation that Jesus is the Messiah. As we draw closer to Easter, take time to pray with the Passion, praying for all who suffer that they may rise with Christ.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 26

Chosen One

In the First Reading, we hear part of the Servant Song. God's chosen one will bring justice to the nations. He is not a warrior, but will restore sight to the blind and free captives. The Gospel tells the story of Jesus' anointing that foreshadows his burial. The message at the start of this week is that Jesus is the chosen one who frees us from sin and unites us as one family. What gift might you present or give to the poor and dying? *Today's Readings: Isaiah 42:1-7; Psalm 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14; John 12:1-11.*

Tuesday, March 27

Betrayal

As today's Gospel unfolds, it is revealed that Judas will betray Jesus. Throughout the passage, Jesus seems to be clear about what he will endure in the coming days, but the disciples seem clueless. How do you think you would have accompanied Jesus during his passion and death? Have you ever betrayed Jesus? Disconnect from social media for the remainder of the week and focus on prayer and listening. *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, March 28

Spy Wednesday

Today is known traditionally as Spy Wednesday because the Gospel narrates Judas' act of betrayal. Like Judas, we have seen and heard the Good News, but yet we also at times give in to the temptations of money, power, or authority. This Lenten season invited us to recall those times we have betrayed Jesus, to repent, and to open our hearts to be transformed in love. Make time to journal about your Lenten experience. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34; Matthew 26:14-25.*

Thursday, March 29

Holy Thursday

This evening, parishes throughout the world gather to celebrate the beginning of the Sacred Triduum with the Mass of the Lord's Supper. These three days, the holiest of the liturgical year, invite us to lay aside distractions and experience the Paschal Mystery. Be nourished by the Eucharist and stay to keep vigil with the Lord. *Today's Readings: Chrism Mass Isaiah 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9; Psalm 89:21-22, 25 and 27; Revelation 1:5-8; Luke 4:16-21. 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, March 30

Good Friday

We enter the church today in silence to meditate on Jesus' death and what it means for our life. Pay close attention to the Gospel, the Adoration of the Cross, and the Solemn Intercessions. Give yourself over to the prayer of the liturgy and listen to God's invitation. What do you hear? *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, March 31

Easter Vigil

In the stillness of the night, the Church gathers to share her story of salvation and to proclaim the Good News of Christ's Resurrection. Listen for the many images in the *Exsultet* so that you may ponder them later. *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; 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; Mark 16:1-7.*

