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

MATTHEW 21:9
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. Enthrone 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.

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

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]).


Readings for the Week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Scripture References</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Is 42:1-7; Ps 27:1-3, 13-14; Jn 12:1-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Is 49:1-6; Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Is 50:4-9a; Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34; Mt 26:14-25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Chrism Mass: Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9; Ps 89:21-22, 25, 27; Rv 1:5-8; Lk 4:16-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lord’s Supper:</td>
<td>Ex 12:1-8, 11-14; Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>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, 4bed, 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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.


Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.
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

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

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.
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!

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!
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."

Tom Schmidt, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.
If You Live Alone You Need MDMedAlert!
24 Hour Protection at HOME and AWAY!
✓ Ambulance
✓ Police / Fire
✓ Friends/Family
FREE Shipping
FREE Activation
NO Long Term Contracts
CALL NOW! 800.809.3352
GPS Tracking w/Fall Detection
Nationwide, No Land Line Needed
EASY Set-up, NO Contract
24/7 365 Monitoring in the USA

David T. Cheung
D.D.S., P.C.

Invisalign®
Orthodontics for
Children and Adults
2446 Fenton St., Ste 100
Eastlake (619) 397-5500
249 "F" Street, Chula Vista (619) 427-8700

No one has more
ways to help
protect the people
and things you
love than ADT
ADT has Medical Alert
systems to fit your lifestyle

Call 833-238-3585 today
Get a $50 credit + a FREE gift
with any Medical Alert
system purchase

WHY IS IT?
A man wakes up after sleeping
under an ADVERTISED blanket
and pulls off ADVERTISED pajamas
bathes in an ADVERTISED shower
shaves with an ADVERTISED razor
brushes his teeth
with ADVERTISED toothpaste
washes with ADVERTISED soap
puts on ADVERTISED clothes
drinks a cup
of ADVERTISED coffee
drives to work
in an ADVERTISED car
and then . . .
refuses to ADVERTISE
believing it doesn’t pay.
Later if business is poor
he ADVERTISES it for sale.

WHY IS IT?