

PALM SUNDAY MASS LITURGY

When Jesus and his disciples came near Jerusalem, he went to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives and sent two of them on ahead. He told them, "Go into the next village, where you will at once find a donkey and her colt. Untie the two donkeys and bring them to me. If anyone asks why you are doing that, just say, 'The Lord needs them.' Right away he will let you have the donkeys."

So, God's promise came true, just as the prophet had said, announce to the people of Jerusalem: 'Your king is coming to you!

He is humble and rides on a donkey He comes on the colt

of a donkey.'" The disciples left and did what Jesus had told them to do. They brought the donkey and its colt and put their cloaks on them. Then Jesus got on. Many people spread clothes in the road, while others put down branches which they had cut from trees. Some people walked ahead of Jesus and others followed behind. They were all shouting, "Hosanna for the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!" When Jesus came to Jerusalem, everyone in the city was excited and asked, "Who can this be?" The crowd answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

Matthew 21: 1-11

PENITENTIAL RITE

ACT OF CONTRITION

O God, from the depth of my heart I am sorry for sinning against You. Through my sins I have turned away from You, displeased You and offended You. I promise to confess my sins, to do penance and with Your grace to amend my life by following You closely and keeping Your commandments.

ENTRANCE HYMN

Daniel 12: 2-3

C: Open wide the door gates. Lift high the ancient portals. The King of glory enters, who is the King of glory? He is God, the mighty Lord.

R: Hosanna in the highest. Blessed are You Who are have come to us so rich in love and mercy. Hosanna in the highest.

C: Lord, for us Your wounds were suffered.

R: O Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.
without end. Amen.

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray. *[pause briefly]* Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have given Your Son as the Savior of the human race and a model of humility. He fulfilled Your will by becoming man and giving His life on the cross. Guide our minds by His truth and strengthen our lives by the example of His death

that we may live in union with You in the New Jerusalem.

We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 50: 4-7

The Lord GOD has given me a well-trained tongue, that I might know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them. Morning after morning he opens my ear that I may hear; and I have not rebelled, have not turned back. I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting. The Lord GOD is my help; therefore, I am not disgraced; I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 22

R: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

All who see me scoff at me; they mock me with parted lips, they wag their heads: "He relied on the LORD; let him deliver him, let him rescue him, if he loves him." R:

Indeed, many dogs surround me, a pack of evildoers closes in upon me; They have pierced my hands and my feet; I can count all my bones. R:

They divide my garments among them, and for my vesture they cast lots. But you, O LORD, be not far from me; O my help, hasten to aid me. R:

I will proclaim your name to my brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will praise you: "You who fear the LORD, praise him; all you descendants of Jacob, give glory to him; revere him, all you descendants of Israel!" R:

Second Reading

Philippians 2: 6-11

Brothers and Sisters:

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Lenten Acclamations.

Philippians 2: 8-9

Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.

Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel

Matthew 26: 14-27: 66

The Passion of the Lord

It is recommended that you take your bible and read the Gospel passage. It is not printed here because of the length of the passion.

PALM SUNDAY REFLECTIONS

In today's liturgy we face quite a contrast of experiences and emotions. We begin our celebration listening to the story of Jesus being welcomed into Jerusalem with great joy and exultation! "Hosanna!" they cried out. "Hosanna in the Highest!" Jesus was treated as He should have been treated. People were excited to see Him and there was much excitement. But this excitement quickly turned to shock and horror as we enter more deeply into today's readings. The Gospel culminates with Jesus hanging on the Cross crying out "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And with that, "Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last." At this moment we must kneel in silence as we meditate the reality of Christ's death. How things can change in one short week. What happened to all the people who were shouting and praising Him as He entered into Jerusalem? How could they allow Him to enter into this Crucifixion and death?

The deepest answer to this question is one that we may not expect. The answer is that the Father willed it. The Father willed, by His permissive will, that so many would turn on Him, abandon Him and allow Him to be crucified. This is so very important to understand. At any time during that first Holy Week, Jesus could have exercised His divine power and refused to embrace His Cross. But He didn't. Instead, He willingly walked through this week anticipating and embracing the suffering and rejection He received. And He didn't do so begrudgingly or even with regret. He embraced this week willingly, choosing it as His own will.

Why would He do such a thing? Why would He choose suffering and death? Because in the Father's perfect wisdom, this suffering and death was for a greater purpose. God chose to confound the wisdom of the world by using His own suffering and crucifixion as the perfect means of our holiness. In this act, He transformed the greatest evil into the greatest good. Now, as a result of our faith in this act, here at Holy Family the crucifix hangs centrally in sanctuary parish and even in our homes as a constant reminder that not even the greatest of evils can overcome the power, wisdom and love of God. God is more powerful than death itself and God has the final victory even when all seems lost. Let this week give you divine hope. So often we can be tempted toward discouragement and, even worse, we can be tempted toward despair. Especially in this time of the pandemic. But all is not lost for us either. Nothing can ultimately steal away our joy unless we let it. No hardship, no burden and no illness can conquer us if we remain steadfast in Christ Jesus letting Him transform all we endure in life by His glorious embrace of His own Cross.

Reflect, today, upon the contrast of emotions from Palm Sunday through Good Friday. Ponder the fear, confusion and despair that many would have had as they saw Jesus murdered. Reflect, also, upon this being a divine act by which the Father permitted this grave suffering so as to use it for the greatest good ever known.

The Lord gave His life freely and calls you to do the same. Reflect upon the cross in your life. Know that the Lord can use this for good, bringing forth an abundance of mercy through your free embrace as you offer it to Him as a willing sacrifice. Blessed Holy Week! Put your eyes upon the Lord's Cross as well as your own.

NICENE CREED

I believe in One God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He was born of the Virgin Mary,
AND BECAME MAN.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day He rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son, He is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

GENERAL INTERCESSION

**Celebrant: Our King has entered His city. Our palms and cries of homage fade away, as the words of the Gospel tell the story of His suffering and death. Let us bring our prayers to the Father through the Son He gave up for us, with love beyond comprehension.
L: Our response is “Lord hear our prayers”**

For the National Catholic Church following the Savior during Holy Week, let us pray to the Lord.

For our nation as we are experiencing the pandemic and to the health care and first responder’s safety, let us pray to the Lord.

For those who are suffering mental, physical or spiritual anguish, let us pray to the Lord.

For the Spirit of penance, reflection, and gratitude during the special holy days, let us pray to the Lord.

For an increase in Sacred Vocation in our Church, let us pray to the Lord.

For our sick, and elderly who cannot worship with us because of their physical disabilities let us pray to the Lord.

For the gentle repose of all the faithful departed, let us pray to the Lord.

Celebrant: Lord and Father, with serene courage Your Son went forth to die for us. Grant us a share in His strength as we bring these prayers before you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

OFFERTORY VERSE

Insult has broken my heart, and I am weak; I looked for compassion, but there was none, for comforters, but found none. Instead they put gall in my food; for my thirst they gave me vinegar.
Psalm 69:21-22

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Heavenly Father, may the suffering and death of Your Son, Jesus make us pleasing to You. Alone we can do nothing, but may this perfect sacrifice win us mercy and love. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Most loving Jesus, I adore You in the Most Blessed Sacrament, in Which You are truly present. I love You above all things and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot receive You sacramentally, I ask You to come spiritually into my heart and heal my soul. I embrace You and unite myself with You; may I never be separated from You. In flame my heart with the fire of Your love, my Lord and Savior.

COMMUNION VERSE

Father, if this cup cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done.
Matthew 25: 42

PRAYER AFTER SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Let us pray. *[pause briefly]* All Loving Father, You have satisfied our hunger with this Sacred Banquet. The death of Your Son gives us hope and strengthens our faith. May His resurrection give us perseverance and lead us to salvation.
We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

PRAYER IN TIME OF NATIONAL ANXIETY

Let us pray. I come to You, Lord, in this time of uncertainty and confusion that has gripped our nation. I pray that our leaders and representatives in government are filled with Your peace, strength and courage. May your gifts of wisdom and understanding, fortitude and counsel be sought and utilized by them for the well-being of our country. By their belief and trust in You may they provide capable leadership, promote unity and peace, and be attentive to the concerns of our people. May Your Church provide support and comfort; and help strengthen our hope for peace through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE ANGELUS – ASKING THE INTERCESSION OF OUR BLESSED MOTHER

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary ...

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. Be it done unto me according to your word.

Hail Mary...

V. And the Word was made Flesh.

R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary ...

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. O Lord, we ask You, pour forth Your grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Your Son, was made known by the message of an

angel, may by His passion and cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection.
We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.
In the name of the Father and of the Son of the Holy Spirit. Amen.