

# PALM SUNDAY



## Sacred Days

Lord Jesus,  
you entered Jerusalem  
amid resounding echoes of praise.  
We join the multitudes  
of your disciples,  
who through the ages,  
proclaim you as King.  
Strengthen us  
as we accompany you  
during these sacred days  
of singing and praying,  
in awe of your love.  
May we have the courage to follow you  
and be transformed by your sacrifice.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Sunday, April 14, 2019

## Messianic Entry

*Today's Readings: Luke 19: 28–40; Isaiah 50:4–7; Psalm 22:8–9, 17–18, 19–20, 23–24; Philippians 2:6–11; Luke 22:14–23:56.* Today, the faithful process with palms and sing “Hosanna,” remembering the Lord’s entrance to Jerusalem, an entry that would lead to his death. Today the readings proclaim Jesus as the king (Gospel at the procession), tell of how Jesus emptied himself to come in human form (Second Reading), and recount the Passion (Gospel).

As Jesus rode on a donkey into Jerusalem, the Romans were unaware of the meaning of the procession. The Jews, however, watched the fulfillment of the prophet Zechariah (9:9): “Behold: your king is coming to you, / a just savior is he, / Humble, and riding on a donkey, / on a colt, the foal of

a donkey.” Concerned, the Pharisees told Jesus to silence his followers. Knowing that all creation awaited his death and rising, Jesus replied that the stones would cry out.

The Romans dismiss Jesus, the Pharisees tried to suppress him, and the people celebrate him. How will you respond to the Lord during this holiest of weeks? Some will discount him by giving these days no importance, while others will suppress the meaning of the days. Still, some will enter into Holy Week and the Sacred Paschal Triduum through participation in the liturgy. They will celebrate the institution of the Eucharist on Holy Thursday, venerate the cross on Good Friday, and keep vigil on Holy Saturday as they listen to the Scriptures tell of salvation history.





## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, April 15

#### Witness to the Power

Lazarus is a witness to the power of Jesus and knows that he is the Messiah. The Jews plot to arrest and kill both Jesus and Lazarus. The more we allow our relationship with Christ to change us, the more we will be rejected by the world. As Holy Week begins, consider how your relationship with Christ serves as a witness to the world. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 42:1-7; Psalm 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14; John 12:1-11.*

### Tuesday, April 16

#### Love and Betrayal

When Jesus tells his followers that one of them will betray him, they question who would be a traitor. Still, Peter, who has been with Jesus from the beginning of his mission, will end up denying Jesus three times. Jesus will be merciful when we return after disavowing him. Let us be mindful of our relationships that are in need of repair. How can we bring about healing in our parish and among our family? *Today's Readings: Isaiah 49:1-6; Psalm 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15, 17; John 13:21-33, 35-38.*

### Wednesday, April 17

#### Mercy and Forgiveness

Judas pays a high price for handing over Jesus. The price that he pays is much higher than the thirty pieces of silver that the chief priests paid him for handing over Jesus. His is the price of separating himself from Jesus and the love that the Lord offers. He chose not to believe in the forgiveness and mercy of God. Who in your community would benefit from an experience of your forgiveness mercy? Begin by praying for those whose actions are unkind and unfair. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 50:4-9; Psalm 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34; Matthew 26:14-25.*

### Thursday, April 18

#### Holy Thursday

Peter sees servitude in the washing of feet; Jesus, however, teaches that the act implies servanthood. By washing the disciples' feet, Jesus shows that disciples serve others. What small act of love can you do for someone in your family today? What is one small act of help that you can offer to a neighbor? *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 19

#### Good Friday

At the liturgy today, the faithful will venerate the cross as they kiss, touch, or genuflect before it. The Church invites us to "Behold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the salvation of the world." If a crucifix is in your home, place it on your prayer table today and spend time in quiet prayer before it. *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 20

#### Holy Saturday

At the Easter Vigil, the faithful gather around a fire and then in the church to hear the story of salvation. If unable to participate in the liturgy tonight, pray the psalms and the readings at your prayer table. What words of the prophets especially strike you? What aspect of the redemption story calls you to new life? *Today's Readings: Genesis 1:1-2:2; Psalm 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24-35; Genesis 22:1-18; Psalm 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11; Exodus 14:15-15:1; Psalm: 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; Psalm: 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 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19; Romans 6:3-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 16, 17, 22-23; Luke 24:1-12.*

