

[35]

PASSION SUNDAY
(Palm Sunday)
The Procession with Palms

C

GOSPEL

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

19:28-40

Jesus went toward Jerusalem.

As he was getting near to Bethphage and Bethany
on the Mount of Olives,

he sent two of his disciples on ahead.

He told them, "Go into the next village,

where you will find a young donkey that has never been ridden.

Untie the donkey and bring it here.

If anyone asks why you are doing that, just say,

'The Lord needs it.'

They went off and found everything just as Jesus had said.

While they were untying the donkey,

its owners asked, "Why are you doing that?"

They answered, "The Lord needs it."

Then they led the donkey to Jesus.

They put some of their clothes on its back and helped Jesus get on.

And as he rode along,

the people spread clothes on the road in front of him.

When Jesus was starting down the Mount of Olives,

his large crowd of disciples were happy and praised God

because of all the miracles they had seen.

They shouted, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven and glory to God."

Some Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus,

"Teacher, make your disciples stop shouting!"

But Jesus answered,

"If they keep quiet, these stones will start shouting."

The gospel of the Lord.

MASS

FIRST READING

I did not cover my face against insult
and I know I will not be ashamed
(third oracle of the Servant of the Lord).

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

50:6-7

I let them beat my back and pull out my beard.
I didn't turn aside when they made fun of me and spit in my face.

But the Lord God keeps me from being embarrassed.
And I refuse to give up,
because I know I will never be ashamed.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

22:7-8, 16c-17a and 18, 19 and 22

R. (2a) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Everyone who sees me
makes fun and sneers.
They shake their heads,
and say, "Trust the Lord!
If you are his favorite,
let him protect you and keep you safe."

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

My enemies have tied up
my hands and my feet.
I can count all my bones!
They took my clothes
and gambled for them.

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

Don't stay far away, Lord!
My strength comes from you,
so hurry and help.
And when your people meet,

I will praise you, Lord.

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

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Phillippians 2:8-9

R. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ became obedient for us even to death,
dying on the cross.
Therefore God raised him on high
and gave him a name above all other names.

R. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

† The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

23:1-49

Everyone in the council led Jesus off to Pilate.

They started accusing him and said,
“We caught this man trying to get our people to riot
and stop paying taxes to the Emperor.
He also claims that he is the Messiah, our king.”

Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

“Those are your words,” Jesus answered.

Pilate told the chief priests and the crowd,
“I don’t find him guilty of anything.”

But they all kept on saying,
“He has been teaching and causing trouble all over Judea.
He started in Galilee and has now come all the way here.”
When Pilate heard this, he asked,
“Is this man from Galilee?”

After Pilate learned that Jesus came from the region ruled by Herod,
he sent him to Herod, who was in Jerusalem at that time.

For a long time Herod had wanted to see Jesus

and was very happy because he finally had this chance.
He had heard many things about Jesus
and hoped to see him work a miracle.

Herod asked him a lot of questions,
but Jesus did not answer.
Then the chief priests and the teachers of the Law of Moses
stood up and accused him of all kinds of bad things.

Herod and his soldiers made fun of Jesus and insulted him.
They put a fine robe on him and sent him back to Pilate.
That same day Herod and Pilate became friends,
even though they had been enemies before this.

Pilate called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people.
He told them, "You brought Jesus to me and said he was a troublemaker.
But I have questioned him here in front of you,
and I have not found him guilty
of anything that you say he has done.
Herod didn't find him guilty either and sent him back.
This man doesn't deserve to be put to death!
I will just have him beaten with a whip and set free."

Pilate said this,
because at every Passover
he was supposed to set one prisoner free
for the Jewish people.

But the whole crowd shouted, "Kill Jesus!
Give us Barabbas!"
Now Barabbas was in jail because he had started a riot in the city
and had murdered someone.

Pilate wanted to set Jesus free,
so he spoke again to the crowds.
But they kept shouting, "Nail him to a cross!
Nail him to a cross!"

Pilate spoke to them a third time,
"But what crime has he done?
I have not found him guilty of anything
for which he should be put to death.
I will have him beaten with a whip and set free."

The people kept on shouting as loud as they could
for Jesus to be put to death.

Finally, Pilate gave in.
He freed the man who was in jail for rioting and murder,
because he was the one the crowd wanted to be set free.
Then Pilate handed Jesus over
for them to do what they wanted with him.

As Jesus was being led away,
some soldiers grabbed hold of a man from Cyrene named Simon.
He was coming in from the fields,
but they put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.

A large crowd was following Jesus,
and in the crowd a lot of women were crying and weeping for him.
Jesus turned to the women and said:
“Women of Jerusalem, don’t cry for me!
Cry for yourselves and for your children.
Someday people will say,
‘Women who never had children are really fortunate!’
At that time everyone will say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us!’
They will say to the hills, ‘Hide us!’
If this can happen when the wood is green,
what do you think will happen when it is dry?”

Two criminals were led out to be put to death with Jesus.
When the soldiers came to a place called “The Skull,”
they nailed Jesus to a cross.
They also nailed the two criminals to crosses,
one on each side of Jesus.

Jesus said, “Father, forgive these people!
They don’t know what they’re doing.”

While the people stood there watching Jesus,
the soldiers gambled for his clothes.
The leaders insulted him by saying, “He saved others.
Now he should save himself,
if he really is God’s chosen Messiah!”

The soldiers made fun of Jesus and brought him some wine.
They said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself!”

Above him was a sign that said,
“This is the King of the Jews.”

One of the criminals hanging there also insulted Jesus by saying,
“Aren’t you the Messiah?”

Save yourself and save us!"

But the other criminal told the first one off,
"Don't you fear God?
Aren't you getting the same punishment as this man?
We got what was coming to us,
but he didn't do anything wrong."
Then he said to Jesus,
"Remember me when you come into power!"

Jesus replied,
"I promise that today you will be with me in paradise."

Around noon the sky turned dark and stayed that way
until the middle of the afternoon.
The sun stopped shining,
and the curtain in the temple split down the middle.
Jesus shouted, "Father, I put myself in your hands!"
Then he died.

When the Roman officer saw what had happened,
he praised God and said,
"Jesus must really have been a good man!"

A crowd had gathered to see the terrible sight.
After they saw it,
they felt brokenhearted and went home.
All of Jesus' close friends
and the women who had come with him from Galilee
stood at a distance and watched.

The gospel of the Lord.



Passion (Palm) Sunday Cycle C

Readings: Luke 19: 28-40, Isaiah 50: 6,7 (opt.) and Luke 23: 1-49

Needed: One or two extra persons (adults or high school youth) to help read the Passion Gospel in parts. Ahead of time, make duplicate copies of the Passion and divide it into parts for several readers to proclaim.

—Place a palm branch, cross and a crucifix in the center of the prayer space.

Introduction: Ask the children what they thought of the procession with palms that happened at the beginning of Mass. Did it remind them of a parade? Waving palm branches could be compared with throwing confetti. *(If there wasn't a procession of palms, explain how this often happens at churches on this day, to represent Jesus being welcomed into Jerusalem. People had heard a lot about him and were excited about this special guest!)*

Opening Prayer:

Jesus, Son of God,
you have a lot of courage.
Show us how to be strong
when things are hard.
Help us to follow you
and learn your ways of love.
In your name we pray.
Amen

Scripture Sharing

Reread the Gospel of Luke (19:28-40) that children may have heard at the beginning of Mass. Ask the children what they heard. What pictures did they get in their mind? How was Jesus feeling? How were the people feeling? Explain how Jesus chose a donkey to ride as a sign of being humble. Riding a horse would have been a sign of great power. Let the children take turns waving the palm branch and proclaiming, "Blessed is the king" or "Hosanna in the highest."

Before reading the Passion, ask the children to listen for a change in the people of Jerusalem. Explain that the Passion reading begins with Jesus being arrested and ready to stand trial.

Readers proclaim the Passion with expression.

Pause for some quiet before continuing.

Discuss what the children are thinking and feeling about Jesus, what they heard, etc. Are they concerned about how someone so good could be treated so badly? Could they picture themselves in the crowd?

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Explain that no matter what happened, Jesus never stopped loving. He forgave the criminal on the cross next to him. Jesus even forgave the soldiers who nailed him to the cross. If he can love that much, imagine how he loves each of us who try hard to follow him.

Pause for another time of quiet to think of the great love of Jesus.

End with a soft refrain of a song that speaks of love, e.g. Peace is Flowing Like a River.....Love is flowing like a river.....

Invite the children to come to Mass on Holy Thursday, and to attend Good Friday services also.