

A prayer for each day

Holy Week 2018

Palm Sunday

25 Give me your grace,
good Lord,
to walk the narrow way
that leads to life,
to bear the cross with Christ;
to have the last thing in
remembrance,
to have ever before my eye
my death that is ever at hand;
to make death no stranger to me,
to pray for pardon before
the Judge come,
to have continually in mind
the passion that Christ
suffered for me;
for his benefits unceasingly
to give him thanks,
and buy the time again that
I before have lost. Amen.

ST. THOMAS MORE

Monday of Holy Week

26 O Jesus, come back
into our society, our
family life, our souls, and reign
there as our peaceful sovereign.
Enlighten with the splendor
of faith and the charity of your
tender heart the souls of those
who work for the good of the
people, for your poor. Impart
in them your own spirit, a
spirit of discipline, order, and
gentleness, preserving the flame
of enthusiasm ever alight in
their hearts. May that day come
very soon when we shall see you
restored to the center of civic
life, borne on the shoulders
of your joyful people. Amen.

ST. JOHN XXIII

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

YEAR B: Mark's passion account

The core and climax of each gospel account is the passion narrative. Each gospel writer shaped his account to help his community deal with the paradox of the cross and the surprise of resurrection.

Each passion account reflects the unique perspective and theology of the gospel writer, who connects a portrait of Jesus in his ministry with the reasons for his suffering and death.

During Holy Week each year, we enter most deeply into the foundation of our Christian faith—the mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

As we revisit the events of that final tumultuous week in his life, we are plunged by memory and ritual into the mystery that reveals and defines the meaning of his existence and of our own. His story is our story, and what happened to him is the pattern for what is happening now and what will happen to us in the future.

The suffering of God's Son

Jesus, the teacher and miracle worker, the Christ, must suffer. He will be misunderstood and abandoned by his friends as the hatred of the

Praying with the Scriptures

ALICE CAMILLE

Passion's place

Find a quiet spot to read, reflect, and pray. You may record your thoughts in a prayer journal or share your responses with others in a group.

INTRODUCTION

Take a few moments to become more prayerful and centered in order to receive the gift of God's word. Consider:

- *How do I distinguish between innocent suffering and the kind that has at least some blame attached to it?*
- *When have I suffered "because I deserved it"? When has suffering arrived through no apparent fault of my own?*

Offer a spontaneous prayer, or use the Collect from Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord (page 95), today's Collect, or the prayer for the day (page 3).

SCRIPTURE READING

(Isaiah 52:13–53:12, from Friday, March 30, page 95)

Read the Scripture passage. Pause for a few minutes of silence to be attentive to God's message for you today.

REFLECTION

You want to be happy. So do I. Study after study confirms what no one needs science to prove: universally, people seek happiness and freedom from suffering. If there were a magic wand that could eliminate sorrow and pain from the world, some compassionate soul would have waved it by now. Yet the grief continues.



OUR EUCHARISTIC LITURGY

Introductory Rites

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

(Turn to the appropriate day)

GREETING

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

- 1** The grace of our Lord
Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion
of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.
And with your spirit.

- 2** Grace to you and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.
And with your spirit.

- 3** The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.
-

PENITENTIAL ACT

Brethren (brothers
and sisters),
let us acknowledge
our sins,
and so prepare ourselves
to celebrate the sacred
mysteries.

*After a brief pause for silence,
one of the following forms is used:*

**1 I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers
and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and
in what I have failed to do,**

And, striking their breast, they say:

**through my fault,
through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary
ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers
and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord
our God.**

May almighty God have
mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to
everlasting life. **Amen.**

**2 Have mercy on us, O Lord.
For we have sinned against you.**

Show us, O Lord, your mercy.
And grant us your salvation.

May almighty God have
mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to
everlasting life. **Amen.**

**3 The celebrant makes the following
or other invocations:**

You were sent to heal
the contrite of heart:
Lord, have mercy.
(OR: Kyrie, eleison.)

Lord, have mercy.
(OR: **Kyrie, eleison.**)

You came to call sinners:
Christ, have mercy.
(OR: Christe, eleison.)

Christ, have mercy.
(OR: **Christe, eleison.**)

You are seated at the right
hand of the Father to
intercede for us:
Lord, have mercy.
(OR: Kyrie, eleison.)

Lord, have mercy.
(OR: **Kyrie, eleison.**)



MONDAY

MARCH 26

MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

(Cf. Psalm 35 [34]:1-2; 140 [139]:8)

Contend, O Lord, with
my contenders; fight those
who fight me. Take up your
buckler and shield; arise in
my defense, Lord, my mighty
help.

COLLECT

Grant, we pray,
almighty God,
that, though in our weakness
we fail,
we may be revived through
the Passion of your
Only Begotten Son.
Who lives and reigns
with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

READING *(Isaiah 42:1-7)*

Here is my servant

whom I uphold,
my chosen one with
whom I am pleased,
Upon whom I have put
my Spirit;
he shall bring forth
justice to the nations,
Not crying out,
not shouting,
not making his voice
heard in the street.

A bruised reed
he shall not break,
and a smoldering wick
he shall not quench,
Until he establishes justice
on the earth;
the coastlands will wait
for his teaching.

Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens
and stretched them out,
who spreads out the earth
with its crops,
Who gives breath
to its people
and spirit to those
who walk on it:

for him there, and Martha served, while Lazarus was one of those reclining at table with him. Mary took a liter of costly perfumed oil made from genuine aromatic nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and dried them with her hair; the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. Then Judas the Iscariot, one of his disciples, and the one

who would betray him, said, “Why was this oil not sold for three hundred days’ wages and given to the poor?” He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief and held the money bag and used to steal the contributions. So Jesus said, “Leave her alone. Let her keep this for the day of my burial. You always have

Today's Good News

“Mary took a liter of costly perfumed oil made from genuine aromatic nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and dried them with her hair” (John 12:3).

Many years ago, I remember passing a florist shop and thinking, “Wouldn’t it be great to give some flowers to Our Lady? I’ll bet she’d like that.” So, I did. I bought the flowers and laid them in front of her statue in our cathedral. When I did, I felt the most wonderful consolation and knew that it made her very happy. In today’s gospel, Lazarus’ sister Mary took some very expensive oil and anointed the feet of Jesus. There were those who criticized her, but Jesus did not. He was touched by the love in her heart, symbolized by her aromatic gift, and he welcomed it. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if you were to express your love for God in some way today? You could give an extravagant gift. But the best gift would be your love.

MSG. STEPHEN J. ROSSETTI

Responding in Prayer

·~· TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK ~·~

Isaiah tells us that God's glory shines through God's people.

+ *How does God's glory shine through me?*

Jesus knew his own disciples would betray and deny him.

+ *How can I strengthen my commitment to Jesus this week?*

Jesus is betrayed and denied by his closest followers.

+ *When have I felt betrayed by someone? In what ways have I betrayed others?*

In the Prayer Over the People, we pray that God's mercy may

cleanse us. + *Of what do I pray to be cleansed?*

Today in Focus

MARCH 29 » HOLY THURSDAY: MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Accept God's humility



“You will never wash my feet!” I wonder how many of us say something like this to God, especially at critical moments in our lives? “This is not what I expected! This is not what I wanted!”

Peter, like us, has listened to Jesus, seen his power, and acknowledged him as Messiah. But he reacts strongly to his Lord and Messiah humbling himself!

Most of us, I suspect, are not overly thrilled with the idea of God's humility. We want a “bigger” God, an “action” God. Indeed, many people today reject God because God does not meet their expectations or demands.

Nonetheless, the Eucharist is the pinnacle of God's gentle humility, of letting go of divinity to become human, to become food for a starving people. In this peaceful oasis we encounter our humble, incarnate, healing God, reaching out to us in love and offering us the Spirit—and asking us to trust in Jesus.

“Do this in remembrance of me” is not just a memory; it is the beginning of a daily prayer: *Lord, I accept that you wash my feet; help me wash the feet of my brothers and sisters to become more like you.* ● **FR. MARK MILLER, CSSR**

without sin. So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help.

In the days when Christ was in the flesh, he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL

(*Philippians 2:8-9*)

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,

King of endless glory! 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 other name. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!**

GOSPEL (*John 18:1–19:42*)

Several readers may proclaim the passion narrative today. (**N**) indicates the narrator, (†) the words of Jesus, (**V**) a voice, and (**C**) the crowd.

N The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to where there was a garden, into which he and

✚ The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops cautions Catholics not to interpret the passion account as anti-Semitic. *The full statement, God's Mercy Endures Forever, can be found on the USCCB website: www.usccb.org. Also see Rev. George Smiga's discussion of John's passion account on pages 15-16.*