

# PASSION SUNDAY

## YEAR B

### PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Dearest God,  
through Jesus you show us  
that to love you  
we must be humble,  
as he was,  
and put up with tough times.  
When we are proud  
of what we have done,  
may we thank you  
for your gifts to us.  
When we are tempted  
not to follow Jesus,  
may we pray to you  
to be strong,  
through Jesus, your Son,  
who lives with you,  
forever and ever.

### FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

We live in a world broken by pride and false identity.

Our first reading is the beautiful hymn of unconditional love, the creed of those who would “think and live like Christ.” Jesus, eternal God, humbled himself to be identified with humankind—the humankind that would lead him to his passion. Those who sought their own importance humiliated Jesus and denied his identity—Messiah, beloved Son, Temple of God, Savior of the world. They put him to death but God raised him up and proclaimed his true identity—Jesus Christ is Lord!

### THE PROCESSION WITH PALMS:

(A)



Sing ho - san - na, sing ho-san-na, to the King, sing ho-san-na!

### GOSPEL: *Mark 11:1-10*

*This is a reading from the Gospel of Mark.*

When Jesus and his disciples  
were on their way to Jerusalem,  
they came near the Mount of Olives.  
Jesus said to two of his disciples,

“Go into the village straight ahead of you.

As soon as you enter it,  
you will find a colt that is tied to a post.

Untie it and bring it to me.

If anyone says to you,

‘Why are you doing that?’ say,

‘The Lord needs it now,

but he will bring it back to you.’ ”

So they went to the village  
and found the colt tied to a post near the house.  
When they untied it, some of the people said to them,

“Why are you untying that colt?”

The disciples answered  
just as Jesus had told them to,  
and the people let them take it.

They brought it to Jesus  
and put their coats across its back.

Jesus sat on the colt and rode into Jerusalem.

Many people spread their coats  
and palm branches on the road in front of him.

The people sang out,

“Hosanna!

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

Hosanna in the highest!”

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

### REFRAIN:

(B)



“Bless-ings on the King who comes in the name of the  
Lord!” — They came run-ning down the streets so ex-  
cit-ed were the chil-dren as he came, sing-ing:

FIRST READING: *Philippians 2:5-11*

*This is a reading  
from Paul's letter to the Philippians.*

Brothers and sisters,

You must think and live like Christ.  
Even though he was always God,  
Jesus did not try to hold onto that.  
Instead, he became a human being,  
just like us.  
As a human being,  
he lived a humble life.  
Jesus obeyed God in everything,  
even though it meant he would die on a cross.  
Because Jesus obeyed God in everything,  
God raised him up  
and gave him the name  
which is above every other name,  
so that at the name of Jesus  
everyone should kneel and worship him.  
Everyone in heaven, on earth and everywhere  
should give glory to God by proclaiming,  
"Jesus Christ is Lord!"

*The Word of the Lord.*

RESPONSE: *Psalm 34*

RESPONSE:

Glo-ri - fy God, glo-ri - fy God, glo-ri - fy God with me. Let us  
praise God's ho - ly name. Glo-ri - fy God glo-ri - fy God's ho - ly name!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Do not fear, Je - sus has con-quer-ed, he is - ris - en from the dead.

~~April 16, 2000~~

REFLECTING ON THE READINGS  
WITH CHILDREN:

We have presented two versions of the Passion. You may wish to use the shorter version with younger children. In either case, we suggest that it be read in parts as has become customary in many parish communities.

The experience of Holy Week is more of a meditation than a theological study. These reflections should allow the children to enter into the drama of the Passion in a way that touches them personally.

*After the Passion*, ask the children to recall the scene.

- Who was there? (Jesus, chief priests and other leaders, Pilate, a crowd of people, soldiers, Simon, the two criminals crucified with him.)
- Why did the people take Jesus to Pilate? Why did they want Jesus crucified?
- How do you think Jesus felt when they made fun of him as a king?
- Who was the man Pilate wanted to let out of prison?
- How do you think Jesus felt when his own people kept shouting, "Crucify him, crucify him"?
- Why were the people making fun of him on the cross? What did they say? How do you think Jesus felt when they said these things?
- After Jesus died, what did one of the soldiers say? How do you think the soldier felt?

If some of the older children have done the reading, you might ask those who read:

- How did you feel being Jesus?
- How did you feel being Pilate?
- How did you feel being the chief priests and leaders?
- How did you feel when you were shouting "crucify him"?
- How did you feel being the soldier at the end?

# *Gospel Drama for Passion Sunday*

*Gospel: Mark 15:1-39*

Children will be required for the roles of:

Narrator 1	Pilate	Chief Priests & Leaders (2 or 3 children)	Robbers (2)
Narrator 2	Jesus	Soldiers (2 or 3 children)	Barabbas
Narrator 3	Simon	Crowd (2 or 3 children)	

Props required: purple robe, crown of thorns, stick, large cross, sign reading:  
“This is Jesus, King of the Jews.”

*Narrator 1:* As soon as it was morning, the chief priests and leaders tied Jesus’ hands together and took him to Pontius Pilate. Pilate asked Jesus,

*Pilate:* Are you the King of the Jews?

*Jesus:* You have said so.

*Narrator 1:* During the trial, the chief priests accused Jesus of many things. So Pilate said to him,

*Pilate:* You hear all these things they are saying against you. Don’t you have anything to say?

*Narrator 1:* But Jesus didn’t say anything, and Pilate wondered why. Now every year at the feast of the Passover, Pilate would free one person from the prison, anyone the people wanted. So Pilate asked them,

*Pilate:* Do you want me to free the King of the Jews?

*Narrator 1:* Pilate knew very well that the chief priests had brought Jesus to him because they were jealous. But the chief priests had already told the people to ask Pilate to free Barabbas instead of Jesus. Barabbas was in prison for committing a murder. Pilate then asked them,

*Pilate:* But what should I do with this man you call the King of the Jews?

*Crowd, Chief Priests, and Leaders (3 or 4 children):* Kill him! Crucify him!

*Pilate:* But why? What has he done wrong?

*Narrator 1:* But they kept shouting louder,

*Crowd, Chief Priests, and Leaders (3 or 4 children):* Crucify him!

*Narrator 2:* Pilate wanted to please the crowd, so he let Barabbas go free. He told the soldiers to whip Jesus, and then he gave Jesus to the people so they could crucify him. The soldiers put a purple robe on Jesus and made a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They knelt in front of Jesus and made fun of him by saying,

*Soldiers (2 or 3 children):* Hail, King of the Jews!

*Narrator 2:* They took a stick and started hitting him on the head with it and spitting at him. After they made fun of him, they took off the purple robe and led Jesus away to crucify him. As they were taking him away, they saw a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they made him carry Jesus' cross.

*Narrator 3:* When they came to a place called Golgotha, which means "the skull," they crucified Jesus. They put a sign over his head which said, "The King of the Jews."

*Narrator 2:* They also crucified two robbers with Jesus, one on his left and one on his right. And while they were hanging there, they made fun of Jesus. People going by made fun of Jesus and laughed at him and said,

*Crowd (2 or 3 children):* So you are the one who was going to tear down the temple and raise it up again in three days! Why don't you come down from that cross and save yourself!

*Narrator 2:* The chief priests and leaders also made fun of him, saying,

*Priests and Leaders (2 or 3 children):* He was able to save other people, but he cannot save himself! If he is the Christ, the King of the Jews, let him come down from that cross! Then we will believe in him!

*Narrator 3:* About noon, everything became dark and stayed dark until about three o'clock in the afternoon. Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

*Jesus:* My God, my God, why have you left me alone?

*Crowd (2 or 3 children):* Listen, he is calling for help. Let's see if God comes to help him.

*Narrator 3:* Then Jesus cried out again, and he died.

(PAUSE)

One of the Roman soldiers who was facing Jesus saw him die and said,

*Roman Soldier:* This man really was the Son of God.

*Narrator 1:* The Passion of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

## PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY

PASSION: *Mark 15:1-39*

REFRAIN:

*Leader:* Jesus has given his life for us.

*All:* Jesus has given his life for us.

*The story of the suffering and death of Jesus, from the Gospel of Mark.*

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests and leaders tied Jesus' hands together and took him to Pontius Pilate. Pilate asked Jesus,

“Are you the King of the Jews?”

Jesus said,

“You have said so.”

During the trial, the chief priests accused Jesus of many things. So Pilate said to him,

“You hear all these things they are saying against you. Don't you have anything to say?”

But Jesus didn't say anything, and Pilate wondered why. Now every year on the feast of the Passover, Pilate would free one person from prison, anyone the people wanted. So Pilate asked them,

“Do you want me to free the King of the Jews?”

Pilate knew very well that the chief priests had brought Jesus to him because they were jealous. But the chief priests had already told the people to ask Pilate to free Barabbas instead of Jesus. Barabbas was in prison for committing a murder. Pilate then asked them,

“But what should I do with this man you call the King of the Jews?”

They shouted back,

“Kill him! Crucify him!”

REFRAIN:

*Leader:* Jesus has given his life for us.

*All:* Jesus has given his life for us.

Pilate said,

“But why? What has he done wrong?”

But they kept shouting louder,

“Crucify him!”

Pilate wanted to please the crowd, so he let Barabbas go free.

He told the soldiers to whip Jesus,

and then he gave Jesus to the people so they could crucify him.

The soldiers put a purple robe on Jesus

and made a crown of thorns and put it on his head.

And they knelt in front of Jesus and made fun of him by saying,

“Hail, King of the Jews!”

They took a stick

and started hitting him on the head with it  
and spitting at him.

After they made fun of him,

they took off the purple robe

and led Jesus away to crucify him.

As they were taking him away,

they saw a man from Cyrene, named Simon,

and they made him carry Jesus' cross.

When they came to a place called Golgotha,

which means “the skull,”

they crucified Jesus.

They put a sign over his head which said,

“The King of the Jews.”

REFRAIN:

*Leader:* Jesus has given his life for us.

*All:* Jesus has given his life for us.

They also crucified two robbers with Jesus,  
one on his left and one on his right.  
And while they were hanging there,  
they made fun of Jesus.  
People going by made fun of Jesus  
and laughed at him and said,

“So you are the one who was going to tear down the temple  
and raise it up again in three days!  
Why don't you come down from that cross  
and save yourself!”

The chief priests and leaders also made fun of him, saying,

“He was able to save other people, but he cannot save himself!”  
If he is the Christ, the King of the Jews,  
let him come down from that cross!  
Then we will believe in him!”

About noon, everything became dark  
and stayed dark until about three o'clock in the afternoon.  
Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

“My God, my God, why have you left me alone?”

Some of the people who were standing near the cross said,

“Listen, he is calling for help.  
Let's see if God comes to help him.”

Then Jesus cried out again, and he died.

REFRAIN:

*Leader:* Jesus has given his life for us.  
*All:* Jesus has given his life for us.

One of the Roman soldiers who was facing Jesus  
saw him die and said,

“This man really was the Son of God.”

*The Passion of our Lord, Jesus Christ.*