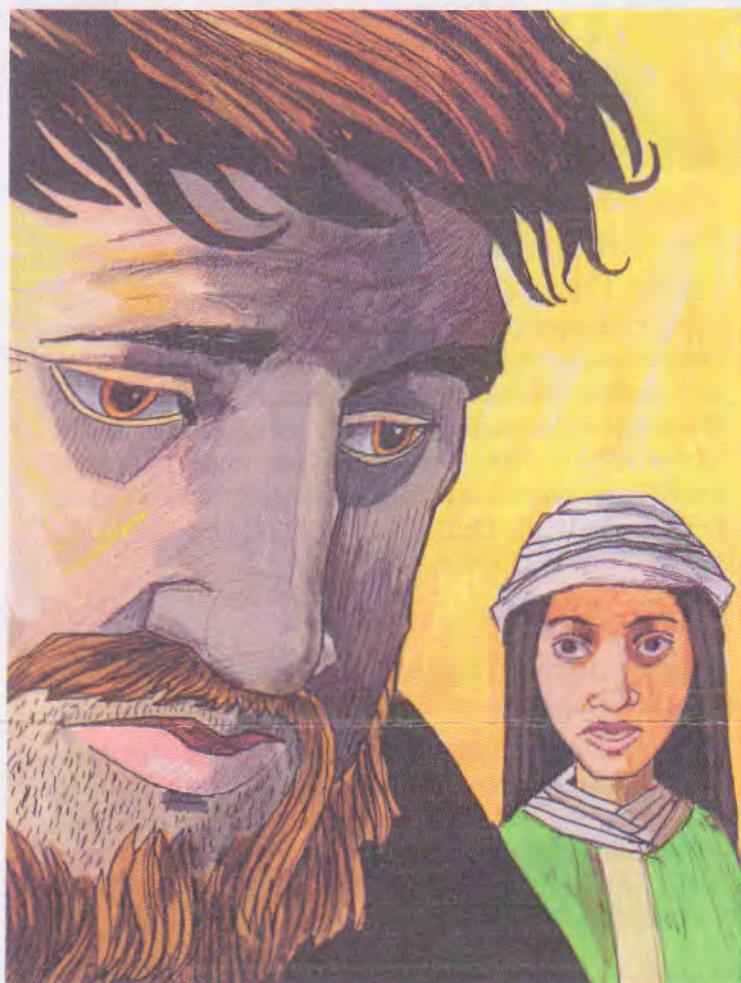


# PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD



## Jesus Christ Is Lord!

Almighty Father,  
you provided your Son  
with a well-trained tongue  
to speak a word to rouse us.  
Our words and actions have betrayed him  
during the times that we have lost  
our way.

We have sung "Hosannas,"  
and then turned our backs on Christ.  
Strengthen us during this Holy Week  
that we might watch and pray as your Son  
journeys to the Cross.

Sustain us as we seek the way  
with our Mother Mary, Mary Magdalene,  
and Mary of Salome,  
and draw us ever nearer to the life  
you offer.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus  
Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday, March 29, 2015

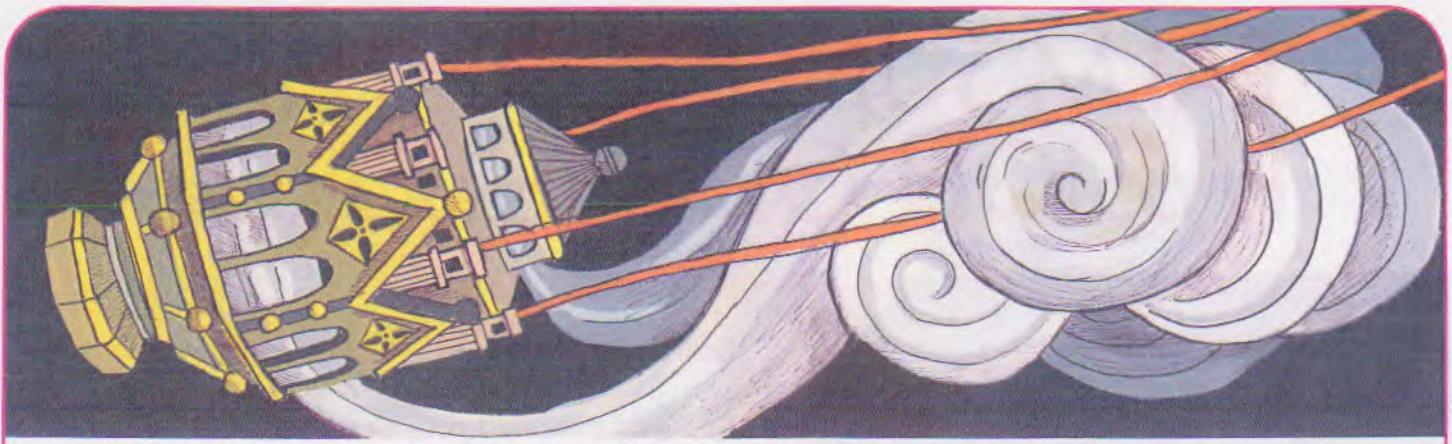
A Time of Paradox

Today's Readings: Mark 11:1-10; Isaiah 50:4-7; Psalm 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 (2a); Philippians 2:6-11; Mark 14:1-15:47. We enter Holy Week with a mix of emotions. Here we face contradiction. In the reading for the Gospel procession, the crowds wave palm branches but in the Passion narrative, Jesus is whipped. We hear of the cries of "hosanna" but also of "crucify him." We can visualize a donkey being brought for Jesus to ride and also his crowning with thorns. Jesus is honored and then mocked; he rides triumphant and then is led out to be crucified. His disciples dine with him and then betray and deny him.

In the Suffering Servant depicted in the reading from Isaiah, we can see Jesus in his Passion. Just as did the Servant, Jesus gave his back to those who beat him and did

not shield his face from those who spat on him. The reading, too, recalls Jesus, who upon beginning his ministry unfurled the scroll in the temple and read that the Lord has sent him "to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" (Luke 4:19).

The reading from Philippians portrays Jesus as the essence of holiness. Though God, Jesus is willing to be humble, to be obedient. Jesus empties himself to do the will of the Father. We, too, are to empty ourselves, to turn over our being to God, to humbly be obedient to his will. Have our Lenten practices taught us this? Will we be able to enter Easter Time resolved to put our trust in God. Will we pray as Jesus does in the Gospel, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible."



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

**Monday, March 30, 2015**

### Monday of Holy Week

It is six days before Passover; six days before Jesus will be arrested. Already, his friend Mary is anointing him with oil. Already, too, Jesus is signaling his coming death as he tells Judas that Mary should keep the rest of the oil for his burial. As we look at this scene with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, we can imagine that Jesus has sought comfort among his friends before he is arrested and sentenced to death. Can you imagine yourself in that room spending days with Jesus before his death? Today's Readings: Isaiah 42:1-7; Psalm 27: 1, 2, 3, 13-14 (1a); John 12:1-11.

**Tuesday, March 31, 2015**

### Tuesday of Holy Week

In the Last Supper discourse in today's Gospel, Jesus speaks of his glory and the glory of his Father. What is this glory? It is the glory of the Cross, where God reveals the breadth of his love by redeeming us from our sins. With Christ's dying and rising, we have been given new life. How do you acknowledge this gift from God? Today's Readings: Isaiah 49:1-6; Psalm 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17 (15ab); John 13:21-33, 36-38.

**Wednesday, April 1, 2015**

### Wednesday of Holy Week

Tomorrow the Triduum season begins. Triduum, which is Latin for "three days," begins with the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday and continues until the time of Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday. During these holiest days in our liturgical calendar, we take time away from our usual activities to participate in the liturgy and to reflect on what God has done on our behalf. Today's Readings: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34 (14c); Matthew 26:14-25.

**Thursday, April 2, 2015**

### Thursday of Holy Week (Holy Thursday)

Today's liturgy is rich with symbols and texts. John's narrative provides us with a model of the Eucharist that is different than those found in the synoptic account of the Gospel. In this simple act of stooping down and washing feet, a sign of service, Jesus is giving himself completely to others. Today's Readings: Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper: Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; Psalm 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18 (1 Corinthians 10:16); 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-15.

**Friday, April 3, 2015**

### Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)

In today's liturgy, we are in awe of the Cross and what it has meant for our salvation. As a pilgrim people, we process up to the cross, and in an act of veneration, touch or kiss it, connecting our sufferings to those of Jesus. Today's Readings: Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25 (Luke 23:46); Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42.

**Saturday, April 4, 2015**

### Holy Saturday

Tonight the liturgy begins as we gather around a fire and then enter the church to hear the stories of our salvation history. "This is the night," proclaims the *Exsultet* that the deacon sings. It is the night that we are saved, when things of heaven are wed to those of earth. Today's Readings: Easter Vigil: Genesis 1:1-2:2; Psalm 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 (30); Genesis 22:1-18; Psalm 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 (1); Exodus 14:15-15:1; Exodus 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18 (1b); Isaiah 54:5-14; Psalm 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 (2a); Isaiah 55:1-11; Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (3); Baruch 3:9-15, 32-4:4; Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11 (John 6:68c); Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28; Psalm 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 (42:2); Romans 6:3-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Mark 16:1-7.



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*Keeping the Seasons*

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