

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) Six days before the Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they carried palm branches and with a loud voice cried out: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy! O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! Who is this king of glory? He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 21)

ANTIPHON: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

RESPONSE: **My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

LECTOR: All who see me deride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads. "He trusted in the Lord, let him save him; let him release him if this is his friend." **R.**

LECTOR: Many dogs have surrounded me, a band of the wicked beset me. They tear holes in my hands and my feet. I can count every one of my bones. **R.**

LECTOR: They divide my clothing among them. They cast lots for my robe. O Lord, do not leave me alone, my strength, make haste to help me! **R.**

LECTOR: I will tell of your name to my brethren and praise you where they are assembled. "You who fear the Lord give him praise; all sons of Jacob, give him glory. Revere him, Israel's sons."

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! 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. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.

TODAY'S READINGS Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14 – 27:66

NEXT WEEK (Easter Sunday, Year A) Acts 10:34, 37-43; Psalm 117; Col 3:1-4; John 20:1-9

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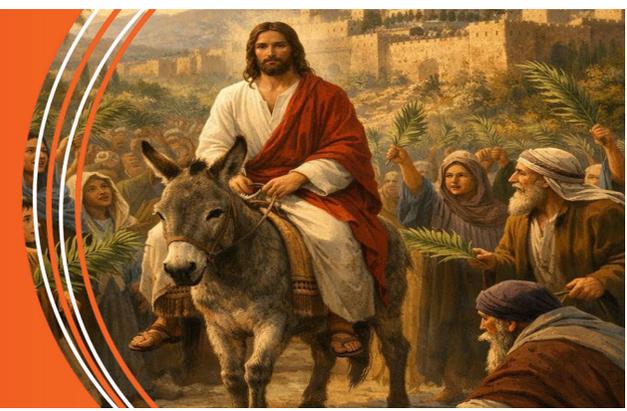
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*Jesus'
Jerusalem is
our Jerusalem*



29 March 2026 Palm Sunday Year A

The journey of Lent has prepared us to celebrate Palm Sunday and commemorate Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem, his Passion and death. Are we ready to journey with Jesus Christ into Jerusalem and his Passion and are we ready to welcome Christ to journey with us in our life's journey?

The Passion of the Lord stands at the heart of our discipleship, revealing the depth of God's love for everyone through suffering freely embraced. The Passion is the deliberate and total self-giving of Jesus who longs to enter fully into our human condition to redeem it. It reveals God's desire to meet us in human form and to guide us with his Word, so we can enjoy eternal life in his Kingdom.

The journey of the Passion begins in the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus confronts what lies ahead. His anguish is real and profound, even to the point of sweating blood. Yet in this moment of deep distress, Christ shows perfect obedience: "Not my will, but yours be done." His surrender reveals that our redemption is born not of force, but of love, a love aligned with his Father's will.

The suffering—scourging, crowning with thorns, carrying his cross and the long walk to Calvary—parades the physical brutality of the Passion. Christ's body bears the consequences of human sin. Yet even in suffering, Jesus is all loving and merciful: he forgives his executioners, consoles the repentant thief, and entrusts his mother to the beloved disciple. The cross

becomes not only an instrument of pain and death, but a throne of love and mercy.

At the moment of his death, when Jesus cries out and takes his last breath, the veil of the temple is torn, signifying a new reality. Through his sacrifice, the barrier between God and humanity is removed; we become closer to God, reconciled. The Passion reaches its fulfillment in total self-giving love—love that holds nothing back; welcomes everyone; and goes to the end.

The Lord's Passion invites us, his disciples, not merely to observe, but to actively participate and journey with Christ. It also calls each of us to carry our own cross as Christ did, to trust God in our suffering, and to respond to evil with forgiveness, mercy and hope. In contemplating the Passion, we learn that pain is not the final and last word. From Christ's wounds flow love, healing, reconciliation, the promise of resurrection and new life.

The Passion of the Lord assures us and the world that no suffering is meaningless when the Lord becomes our light and our life and when we are united with Christ. There is no darkness in our life that is beyond the reach of God's steadfast love and redeeming grace. What is asked of us is faithful discipleship, self-giving love and relationship with God. As we enter into this Holy Week, let us remember that we have Christ who longs to journey with us.

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