

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY



God shows divine love through humiliation.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 21:1-11	Jesus enters Jerusalem
Monday	Matthew 26:14–27:66	Jesus' trial and crucifixion
Tuesday	Isaiah 50:4-9a	The servant's humiliation
Wednesday	Philippians 2:5-11	Christ shows us true humility
Thursday	John 13:1-35	Jesus washes disciples' feet
Friday	John 18:1–19:42	Jesus suffers and dies
Saturday	Psalms 31:9-16	Prayer for protection
Sunday	Matthew 28:1-10	Christ's resurrection

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

[B]ut [Jesus Christ] emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. **Philippians 2:7-8 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, free us to trust that the humiliation Jesus experienced from the cross is the path to hope for the world and the source of true power, true faith, and true love. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for the gift of each day and for this food. May we enjoy the day with courage, faith, and love. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the face of God shine on you and save you through Christ's steadfast love. (Psalm 31:16)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!



WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- How do you show others that you care for them?
- How have others shown care for you?
- Jesus died on a cross. How is this act of God a sign of love?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 26:14–27:66.

Many theories have been put forward in the history of the church to state why Jesus had to die to be our Savior. However, one point is clear in the Bible: Jesus' death shows the depth of God's love, a love that is willing to experience a form of slavery, humiliation, and excruciating death, even death on a cross (Philippians 2:8). Crosses have become forms of jewelry and part of other art forms that point to Jesus' death. However, neither the jewelry nor other art come close to the pain and humiliation that God in Christ endured to indicate the character of who God is for us. Jesus is not only Emmanuel, God with us, in humiliation and death. Jesus also joins our human existence by making our deepest prayer his prayer: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46). God in Christ Jesus joins our life experience and from the cross stretches out his arms to say, "I love you this much." When you see someone wearing a cross, what does it mean to you?

Pray: **Loving God, you stop at nothing to show us your divine character and the depths of your love. Help us to know and to trust the power of your love for us through Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE



"Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5). To have a mind like Jesus means to be humble and not selfish but selfless. Such humility opens our lives to care for others. In what ways are you a servant to others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



If you received palms during worship, take them home. As we begin Holy Week, say the **ACTS** prayer of giving praise to God (**A**doration), asking God's forgiveness (**C**onfession), giving thanks to God (**T**hanksgiving), and asking God's help for those in need (**S**upplication) as you light all six purple candles on the Lenten Candle Cross. After lighting the candles, hold a palm and wave it in your hand as you say, "**Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!**" (Matthew 21:9b)



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