

ZION GATE
JERUSALEM

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

MATTHEW 21:9

APRIL 5
2020

PALM
SUNDAY
OF THE PASSION
OF THE LORD

Five Simple Ways to Celebrate Holy Week at Home

Create a simple prayer space in your home, and gather there to pray during the week.

Palm Sunday: At your regular Mass time, read the first Palm Sunday Gospel (Mt 21:1-11) and meditate on or discuss what Jesus might be thinking as he enters Jerusalem for the last time.

Holy Thursday: Bake bread for sharing at dinner; make a ritual of stripping the dinner table of all cloths and decorations after dinner.

Good Friday: Pray the Stations of the Cross at 3 p.m.

Holy Saturday: In the morning, read Psalm 64 and break your Good Friday fast solemnly with a simple meal.

Easter Sunday: Dress up the dinner table again. Include candles and crosses, so that the candy baskets aren't the only festive items present. Sing Alleluia and read the Easter Gospel (Matthew 28:1-10) with solemnity and joy.

Look online for other suggestions for celebrating Holy Week at home, to deepen and enrich your experience at this time of social isolation.

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

The journey of Lent brings us to an encounter with the cross. During Lent, we have been led more deeply into questions at the heart of our faith: Who is God? And who are we, the Church? The Gospel of Matthew indicates that, in the crucifixion, God's true nature is most fully revealed in Jesus. In Jesus, God is the self-emptying One, who embraces humility and suffers rejection, as Paul tells the Philippians. God's power is redefined, present not in coercion and violence, but in Jesus' unbounded love. We the Church can learn who we are, the followers of the Crucified One, when we bear crosses that offer life and hope to the world. We more fully become the Church when we empty ourselves by sharing in others' sufferings, rejecting violence, and taking risks for justice and reconciliation. Like Jesus, we may reveal God's power as compassion and mercy.

Enduring Hope

Today's passage from Isaiah presents us with a common human dilemma: what do we do with our suffering? The speaker describes himself as God's faithful servant, who suffers beatings and mockery. We can't be sure who the speaker is, but we can see his extraordinary response. He chooses not to fight back, not to respond to violence with violence. He chooses to endure with hope that God, in God's own way, will deliver and vindicate him.

Christians later saw this passage as a poignant description of Jesus' suffering in his passion.

We all have many experiences of tragic or undeserved suffering. We might desire to run from our pain, or to

inflict suffering upon others, or to live in despair. In faith, we are invited to share in the suffering of Jesus, sharing also with all who suffer similarly. We can place our wounds in God's hands. We may live in enduring hope that Christ is indeed present and accompanies us in our pain. In God's own way, our suffering may be transformed, so to serve God's purposes.

A New Kingdom

The Gospel of Matthew, using various symbols from scripture, presents Jesus as the true and victorious king who begins a new kingdom. After his royal entrance into Jerusalem, Jesus ascends his scandalous and paradoxical throne, the cross. The cross reveals the nature of his kingdom, based on God's forgiveness and sacrificial love. Evil forces thrive when violence stirs even more violence. By accepting his suffering and offering forgiveness, Jesus broke the primary cycle of violence. The Gospels proclaim that the powers of evil, though continuing their effects today, were decisively defeated on the cross. The resurrection of Jesus launches the reign of God, which will be fully complete upon Jesus' return. We are now offered a new path for being human by which, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we may partner with God to create new cycles of life and hope.

Today's Readings: Mt 21:1-11; Isa 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14 — 27:66 [27:11-54]

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

God's Word for Children



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

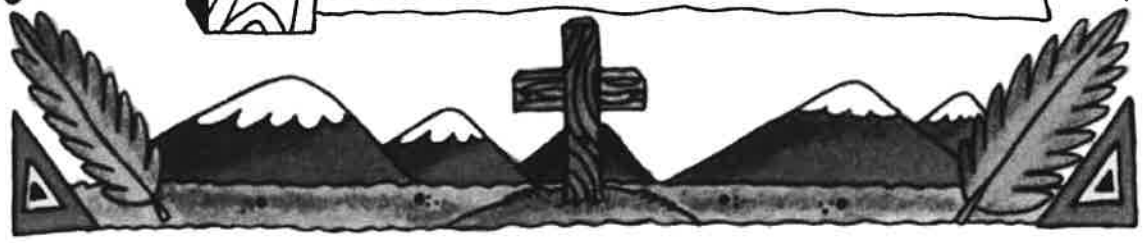
People are willing to do many things for those they love.

But do you know what Jesus was willing to do?

Find and use the nine hidden words in the cross to complete the "Greatest Love Story" ever!

A large cross is the central focus. The vertical beam contains the words "love", "Jesus", "punishment", "time", and "WORLD" written vertically. The horizontal beam contains "obedient", "sins", and "someone" written horizontally. To the right of the cross is a scroll pinned to a wall with two thumbtacks. The scroll contains a story with several blank lines for words.

When the _____ came,
Jesus was _____ and
went to the cross. There he
suffered and _____
to take away the
_____ for
our _____. He did this out
of his deep _____ for
everyone in the _____. Tell
_____ today, what
_____ did for them!



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
April 5, 2020

God greatly exalted [Christ]
 and bestowed on him the name
 which is above every name.

— *Philippians 2:9*



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.



**GOODALE
 MEMORIAL CHAPEL**
 HEARTLAND CREMATION SERVICES

"Family Owned and Operated"

- Advanced Planning Available
- Privately Owned Crematory for Peace of Mind

Anderson-Goodale Memorial Homes Inc.
 & Heartland Cremation Services
815-838-1533
 Located in Historical downtown Lockport
 VISIT: WWW.ANDERSON-GOODALE.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.

If You Live Alone You Need MDMedAlert!

24 Hour Protection at HOME and AWAY!

- ✓ Ambulance
- ✓ Police ✓ Fire
- ✓ Friends/Family

Solutions as Low as **\$19.⁹⁵** a month

FREE Shipping
 FREE Activation
 NO Long Term Contracts

CALL NOW! 800.809.3352

GPS Tracking w/Fall Detection
 Nationwide, No Land Line Needed
 EASY Set-up, NO Contract

MDMedAlert
 Life-Causting America's Senior Nationalist

This Button SAVES Lives!
 At Shows, GPS,
 Lowest Price Guarantee!

24/7 365 Monitoring in the USA

WHY IS IT
 A man wakes up after sleeping under an ADVERTISED blanket on an ADVERTISED mattress and pulls off ADVERTISED pajamas bathes in an ADVERTISED shower shaves with an ADVERTISED razor brushes his teeth with ADVERTISED toothpaste washes with ADVERTISED soap puts on ADVERTISED clothes drinks a cup of ADVERTISED coffee drives to work in an ADVERTISED car and then refuses to ADVERTISE believing it doesn't pay. Later if business is poor he ADVERTISES it for sale.

WHY IS IT?

Protecting **Seniors** Nationwide

24SE EN
 Medical Alert System

\$29.95/Mo. billed quarterly

- One Free Month
- No Long-Term Contract
- Price Guarantee
- Easy Self Installation

Call Today! Toll Free 1.877.801.8608



Your ad
 could be in this space!

