



Liturgy Cycle C

# **Passion (Palm) Sunday**

## **Redeeming suffering**

### **Introduction**

Today we begin the week we call 'Holy Week' — the week in which Christ died and rose. He died because of sin. "Sin brought death to the Son of God and it continues to bring death to the children of God.' Let us pause to call to mind our sins, especially those by which we hurt and betray others. The Lord died forgiving those who put him to death. He will forgive us too.

Lord Jesus, you looked at Peter after he had denied you and he wept for his sins.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you forgave your enemies and your executioners.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you received the repentant thief into paradise.

Lord, have mercy.

### **Gospel for Procession (Luke 19:28-40)**

Christ enters Jerusalem to receive a kingdom — not an earthly kingdom, but the kingdom of God. His entry as messianic king is a sign that the peace and salvation decreed by God is at hand. We are asked to declare our loyalty publicly to him.

### **First Reading (Isaiah 50:4-7)**

The prophet suffers in carrying out his mission, but he is convinced that God will eventually save him.

### **Second Reading (Philippians 2:6-11)**

Because Jesus took on himself our human condition and accepted death on a cross, the Father has made him Lord of heaven and earth.

### **Gospel (Luke 22:14-23:56)**

Luke's version of the Passion Story. As in the rest of his Gospel, so in his account of the Passion, Luke presents a Christ who is merciful and forgiving, even to his executioners. We are involved in the Passion Story too.



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### **Prayer Of The Faithful**

**On this day when Jesus said that if the people kept silent the very stones would cry out, let us make our voices heard in prayer.**

**R: Lord, hear us in your love.**

**For all Christian leaders: that they may not be afraid to show their loyalty to Christ in front of unbelievers and even cynics. We pray in faith.**

**R: Lord, hear us in your love.**

**Jesus accepted a violent death to free us from sin: may all of God's children be able to live in freedom and dignity. We pray in faith.**

**R: Lord, hear us in your love.**

**For all those in pain of any kind: that they may learn from the example of Jesus to bear their sufferings with courage and love. We pray in faith.**

**R: Lord, hear us in your love.**

**That we may welcome Jesus into our hearts and into our lives with the same joy and enthusiasm as his disciples did on the first Palm Sunday. We pray in faith.**

**R: Lord, hear us in your love.**

### **Let us pray:**

**Today we see Jesus, our King, coming to us humbly riding on a donkey. Since he wanted so much to be like us, we should want to be like him. We ask this through the same Christ, our Lord.**

### **Communion Reflection**

**This week each year Christians are drawn to Jerusalem, if not in body, at least in mind.**

**They stand at the foot of the cross,  
beating their breasts,  
and staring with pity at Jesus of Nazareth.  
They listen with reverence to his voice.**

**as he prays for his killers:**

**'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.'**

**But when the week is over they return to their homes  
to resume their deep-rooted spites  
and the burden of things they can't forgive.**

**'Don't cry for me,' says Jesus.**

**'Cry for yourselves and for your children -  
the children who will inherit your fears, prejudices and hates.'**

**Let us not then weep for Jesus.**

**Rather let us follow the example of Peter,  
who wept bitter tears for his own sins.**

**Then maybe we will be able  
to forgive others who sin against us.**