

PASSION SUNDAY

YEAR C

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

God of all things,
through the death of Jesus
you forgive us all our sins.
Let us never forget the cross
because it is the sign
of how much you love us.
We make this prayer to you
through Christ our Lord.

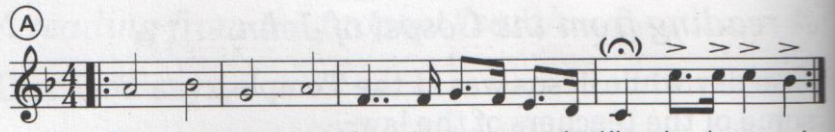
FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

Jesus, eternal God, humbled himself to be identified with humankind. Those who sought their own importance humiliated Jesus and denied his identity: Messiah, King of the Jews, builder of the Temple. They put him to death, but God raised him up and proclaimed his true identity: Jesus Christ is Lord!

Jesus suffers and dies.

THE PROCESSION WITH PALMS:

(A)



Sing ho - san - na, sing ho-san-na, to the King, sing ho-san-na!

GOSPEL: *Luke 19:28-40*

A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

Jesus and his disciples
were on their way to Jerusalem.
And when they were close to Bethany,
a town near the Mount of Olives,
Jesus said to two of his disciples,

“Go into the next town
and you will see a young donkey tied there.
Untie it and bring it to me.
If anyone asks you why you are doing that,
just say, ‘The Lord needs it.’”

When the two disciples went into the town,
they found the donkey,
just as Jesus had said they would.
While they were untying it, the owners asked,

“Why are you untying that donkey?”

The disciples said,
“The Lord needs it.”

Then they took it to Jesus.
They put their coats on the back of the donkey
and then helped Jesus up on it.
People came and spread their coats
on the road in front of him.
When he came close to Jerusalem,
at the bottom of the Mount of Olives,
a large crowd of his followers
began to rejoice and praise God
for all the wonderful and powerful
things they had seen. They shouted,

“Blessed is the King
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Peace in heaven, and glory to God.”

[Some of the Pharisees who were there said to Jesus,
“Teacher, tell your disciples to stop shouting.”

But Jesus answered,

“I tell you that, if they stop,
these stones will start shouting it out.”]

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFRAIN:

They sing on the King who comes in the name of the
Lord.
They came run-ning down the streets so ex-
cited - at were the chil - dren as he came, sing - ing:

FIRST READING: *Philippians 2:5-11*

A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians.

Brothers and sisters,

You must think and live like Christ.

Even though he was always God,

Jesus did not try to hold onto that.

Instead, he became a human being just like us.

As a human being, he lived a humble life.

Jesus obeyed God in everything,

even though it meant he would die on a cross.

Because he obeyed God in everything,

God raised Jesus up and gave him the name

which is above every other name,

so that at the name of Jesus

everyone should kneel and worship.

Everyone in heaven, on earth and everywhere

should give glory to God by proclaiming,

"Jesus Christ is Lord!"

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSE: *Psalm 34*

Glo-ri - fy God, glo-ri - fy God, glo-ri - fy God with me. Let us
praise God's ho - ly name. Glo-ri - fy God glo-ri - fy God's ho - ly name!
(Verse the great "I Am.")

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Leader:
Je - sus _____ has giv - en his life for
us.
All:
Je - sus _____ has giv - en his life for us.

REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

We suggest that the Passion be read in parts as has become customary in many parish communities.

The experience of Holy Week is more of a meditation than a theological study. These reflections should allow the children to enter into the drama of the Passion in a way that touches them personally.

After the Passion, ask the children to recall the scene.

- Who was there? (Jesus, chief priests and other leaders, Pilate, a crowd of people, soldiers, Simon, the two criminals crucified with him.)
- Why did the people take Jesus to Pilate?
- Why did they want him crucified?
- How do you think Jesus felt when they made fun of him as a king?
- Who was the man Pilate wanted to let out of prison?
- How do you think Jesus felt when his own people kept shouting, "Crucify him, crucify him"?
- Why were the people making fun of him on the cross?
- What did they say? How do you think Jesus felt when they said these things?
- What did the two criminals say to Jesus? How do you think the criminal felt when Jesus said, "Today you will be with me in Paradise."
- After Jesus died, what did one of the soldiers say? How do you think that soldier felt?

If some of the older children have done the reading, you might ask those who read:

- How did you feel being Jesus?
- How did you feel being Pilate?
- How did you feel being the chief priests and leaders?
- How did you feel when you were shouting, "Crucify him"?
- How did you feel being the first criminal?
- How did you feel being the second criminal?
- How did you feel being the soldier at the end?