



The Liturgy of the Passion, from Luke's perspective, is not just about the suffering of Christ. It is also about Jesus' presence in our suffering, and about us sharing Christ's suffering by serving and caring for suffering people around us. It will not take much more than the Scriptures themselves to get these complementary messages across, and it may be wise to allow the service to be more meditative than preaching-focussed.

May our meditation on the suffering of Jesus lead us into lives that share in the pain of, and bring healing to, places of suffering in our world.

INTRODUCTIONS

For use by lectors, in order of service, parish bulletins and magazines

Psalm 31: 9-16

The cry of God's servant, persecuted and beaten.

Isaiah 50 : 4-9a

Isaiah pictures a faithful servant of God who is deeply and unjustly humiliated, but remains dignified in suffering. As we contemplate the mystery of the cross, these words take on a profound meaning for us in the Passion of Jesus.

Philippians 2 : 5-11

It is our faith that 'Jesus Christ is Lord', because he came from God in total self-giving, and overcame the humiliation of death on a cross by rising and ascending. He is indeed worthy of our adoration and worship.

Luke 22 : 14-23:56 or Luke 23 : 1-49

Traditionally, the Gospel narrative of the passion and death of Jesus has not introduction except formal words such as: 'The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke'.

[Click here to view the readings](#)

http://bible.oremus.org/?show_adj=no&passages=Isaiah%2050:%204-9a%0Acw%20Psalm%2031:%209-16%0APhilippians%202:%205-11%0ALuke%2022:%2014%20-%2023:%2056

COLLECTS OF THE DAY

Collect One

Almighty and everlasting God,
who, of thy tender love towards mankind,
hast sent thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,
to take upon him our flesh,
and to suffer death upon the cross,
that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility;
Mercifully grant,
that we may both follow the example of his patience,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collect Two

Almighty and everlasting God,
who, in your tender love towards the human race,
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to take upon him our flesh
and to suffer death upon the cross:
Grant that we may follow the example
of his patience and humility,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Presider or deacon

As we journey this week with Christ and celebrate the paschal mystery of his death and resurrection, let us earnestly pray to God for those following the way of the cross and for all peoples everywhere.

Deacon or other leader

For the holy catholic church throughout the world, sharing the death and resurrection of Christ.

Lord, have mercy.

For *N* our bishop, for presbyters and deacons and all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God.

Lord, have mercy.

For *NN* our catechumen(s) and *NN* their sponsors(s).

Lord, have mercy.

For all nations, peoples, tribes, clans, and families.

Lord, have mercy.

For justice, mercy, and peace in all the world.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who are tempted, oppressed, afflicted, or in need.

Lord, have mercy.

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For the dying and the dead, and for those who mourn.

Lord, have mercy.

For our families, friends, and companions, and for all those we love.

Lord, have mercy.

Remembering Saint *N*, and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. **To you, O Lord.**

Presider

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, whose Son humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death. Receive the prayers we offer this day for all those in need in every place; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION

Lord Jesus Christ,
you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant
and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation.
Give us the mind to follow you
and to proclaim you as Lord and King,
to the glory of God the Father.

PRAYERS

Holy Father, you have shown us that the brave bearing of the cross is the beginning of wearing your crown: help us by your grace to bear patiently our pains and disappointments, as your beloved Son bore His; and to offer them to you as the pure gift of our faithfulness to our crucified Lord. Amen

As on this day we keep the special memory of our Redeemer's entry into the city, so grant O Lord than now and ever, He may triumph in our hearts. Let the King of Glory enter in, and let us lay ourselves and all we are in full and joyful homage before Him, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen** *Bishop Moule, 1841-1920*

Father God, During Lent we have been preparing for the celebration of our Lord's Paschal mystery. On this day Jesus Christ entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph. The people welcomed Him with palms and shouts of praise, but the path before Him led to self-giving, suffering and death. Today we greet Him as our king, although we know His crown is thorns and His throne a cross. We follow Him this week from the glory of the palms to the glory of the resurrection by the dark road of suffering and death. Unite us with Him in His suffering on the cross; may we share His resurrection and new life. **Amen**

Christ crucified draw you to himself, to find in him a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

As we journey this week with Christ and celebrate the paschal mystery of his death and resurrection, let us earnestly pray to God for those following the way of the cross and for all peoples everywhere. Blessed are you, Lord our God, who sent your Son among us to bear the pain and grief of humankind. Receive the prayers we offer this day for all those in need in every place and as we near the holy mountain grant us strength on our journey. Glory to you for ever. **Amen**

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Christ, Saviour of all life, you come to us always. Welcoming you in the peace of our nights, in the silence of our days, in the beauty of creation, in the hours of combat within, welcoming you is knowing that you will be with us in every situation, always. **Amen**

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Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those things which last for ever; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God our dance, in whom we live and move and have our being: so direct our strength and inspire our weakness that we may enter with power into the movement of your whole creation, through our partner Jesus Christ. **Amen**

O God, you are my rock, my rescue, and my refuge, I leave it all quietly to you. **Amen.**
George Appleton (1902-93)

Lord may I prefer the truth and right by which I might seem to lose, to the falsehood and wrong by which I might seem to gain. **Amen.** *Maimonides (1135-1204) Spain.*

God our Father, we come today to worship you and confess that devotion to you is often far from our minds. This morning may we refocus our attention upon our love for you and how we show that love. Help us Lord to be more willing to pour out our lives as fragrant offerings of love. We lay our lives before you and ask that we might know that love which does not count the cost. **Amen**

Lord God, as we wait upon you now, as we listen for your voice in the silence of hearts and as we offer our prayers to you we think of those people in our lives who have loved us with a generous love we think of those who like Mary have not counted the cost of what they have given us; of those who given all of themselves to us as Christ gave himself for the world; and we thank you for them - and ask you to bless them and for you to make us like them. **Amen**

As we go into this week, O God, help us to have a focus, a purpose that is beyond that of just getting by; beyond that of just trying to make it through another week; show us we pray what you would have us do; reveal to us our own personal and unique ministry—and help us to do it. **Amen**

Bless O God those in our midst and those around the world whom we name in our hearts before you at this time; we especially ask for those who are poor in the basic needs of daily living; and for those who are poor in love; hear too the prayers we ask for those who

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need healing or hope in their lives, those who need justice, and those who require mercy.
Amen

OFFERTORY PRAYERS

Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna! Bless these gifts and our lives, O God, for we offer them in the name of Jesus, our Lord. He emptied himself that we might be filled. He humbled himself that we might be lifted up. We pray that these gifts be used to proclaim the gospel which fills lives that are empty and lifts up those who need help. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

We thank you Father for thy son Jesus Christ, who for our sake became poor that we might be rich. We thank you for the fact that he gave himself up to death so that we might rise to life. Accept our gifts of thanksgiving now O Lord, and use them so that they might bring blessings unto your name. Amen

BENEDICTION

Go into the world in peace,
embraced by the steadfast love of God,
blessed by the humility and courage of Jesus Christ
and filled with the immeasurable power of the Holy Spirit.

LECTIONARY NOTES - Liturgy of the Passion

REFLECTIONS ON THEME:

The Liturgy of the Passion is, quite simply, a meditation on the suffering of Jesus. But, in the Psalm reading ([31:9-16](#)), we are also invited to reflect on God's solidarity with all who suffer, in the Epistle, we are called to view Christ's passion as an example for us to follow. In addition, two particular narratives stand out in the Lukan account of Christ's passion. Firstly, Luke places the dispute over who is the greatest here, at the Last Supper, which, when placed alongside the Philippians reading, drives home the servant nature of Jesus' death, and the call for us to embrace the same self-giving life. Secondly, only Luke includes the account of the penitent thief on the cross who asks Jesus to remember him. The response of Christ to this man, in the midst of his own suffering and persecution, demonstrates very dramatically, the extent to which the loving, serving grace of Christ reaches, and the extent to which we are called to serve and love others in Christ's name. In the light of this, the Liturgy of the Passion, this year, invites us into a deep and transforming journey into Christ's suffering, Christ's presence in our suffering, and Christ's call for us to share his suffering. It's not just about the passion of the Christ – it's about the passion of the followers of the Christ as well!

CONNECTING WITH LIFE:

GLOBAL APPLICATION: In the Liturgy of the Passion the clear call to find God in places of suffering, and to stand with all who suffer comes through very strongly in the Scriptures. It is often tempting to view health, wealth and happiness as God's blessing, and see suffering as the result of some sin on the part of the victim. This view has been used to excuse callous disregard for the poor, for AIDS sufferers, for victims of natural disasters, and even those who are killed in war or mass shootings. However, in the light of the readings this year – and Luke's particular emphasis in his Gospel – such a view becomes

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untenable, and the call to experience God *in* suffering – both our own and that of others – speaks compellingly. And once this call has been heard, we cannot avoid the additional call to serve and love those who suffer in Christ's name. Although a short homily may be offered, it may be advisable to allow the Scriptures the space to speak on their own, and allow God's Spirit time to do the work of transformation without feeling that we need to manage or "drive" it. It may also be good to allow this meditation to be as interactive as possible, giving people time to bring their suffering to Christ, and inviting people to hear the call to be agents of Christ's compassion to those who suffer in our world.

LOCAL APPLICATION: The clear, comforting message of God's initiative in coming to us in our pain – whatever that pain may be – comes through very clearly in the Passion narrative and accompanying Scriptures this year. For many who have experienced suffering, or been shocked by some of the world's tragic and horrific events, this comforting word can be deeply healing. In addition the call to participate in this comforting, healing work of God can be both challenge and inspiration, and can motivate people to engage more intentionally in the suffering of their families, neighbourhoods and communities. Much of this work can be done, though, with little more than a meditative, mindful encounter with the Scriptures. If the Liturgy of the Passion is combined with the Liturgy of the Palms, there is the additional challenge to recognise that God's Reign seeks to subvert the systems of our world that cause or exacerbate suffering. Once again, the Passion on which we meditate is not just that of Jesus, but of ourselves.

ONLINE SERMON SOURCES

Walk through Holy Week with Jesus," the Rev. Whitney Rice, Sermons that Work
<http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/stw/2014/03/23/palm-sunday-a-2014/>

Day1- Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.
The Rev. Dr. Mark Anschutz is the retired rector of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church in Dallas, TX.
http://day1.org/469-sermon_for_palm_sunday

Day1 - The Passion of Jesus
The Rev. Lawrence J. Clark is the pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Chicago
http://day1.org/1036-the_passion_of_jesus

Day 1 - Holy Week: Then and Now
Bishop Michael Watson is the bishop of the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church.
http://day1.org/1868-holy_week_then_and_now

Friar Tuck's Sermons: The Sunday of the Passion
<http://friartucksermons.blogspot.co.uk/2010/03/palm-sunday-year-c.html>

Richard Fairholme - From Palm Sunday to Good Friday
Scroll down
<http://www.rockies.net/~spirit/sermons/c-le06se.php>

Father Andrew M. Greeley, "Priest, Author, Sociologist," Commentary and Homily
<http://www.agreeley.com/hom05/mar20.html>

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Worshiping with Children, Palm/Passion Sunday, Including children in the congregation's worship, using the Revised Common Lectionary, Carolyn C. Brown
<http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.co.uk/2014/02/year-passionpalm-sunday-april-13-2014.html>

Childrens Sermon, Faith Formation Journeys
<http://faithformationjourneys.org/?p=87>

"They Are Holy," Fran Woodruff, On The Chancel Steps
<https://onthechancelsteps.wordpress.com/2014/03/30/holy/>

There are three here...
<http://desperatepreacher.com/kids.htm>

... And two more here -

<http://christian-bible.com/Worship/Sermons/palmsunday.htm>

<http://prayerlogue.blogspot.co.uk/2007/03/palm-sunday-childrens-sermon.html>

HYMN RECOMMENDATIONS

[O Sacred Head Now Wounded](#)

[O Love Divine What Hast Thou Done](#)

[Jesus! The Name High Over All](#)

[Depth Of Mercy](#)

[And Can It Be](#)

[This Place](#)

[God With Us \(Link to YouTube video\)](#)

[Amazing Love \(Link to YouTube video\)](#)

[Once Again \(Link to YouTube video\)](#)