



## Palm/Passion Sunday (Year B)

### Day 1: Palm Sunday



Mark 11: 1 – 10

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them,

“Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, “Why are you doing this?” just say this, “The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.””

They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” The disciples told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it.

Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

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Reflection:

Today, we celebrate Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem. Most of us know it as Palm Sunday. Today, we also celebrate Jesus’ trial at the hands of the Roman Governor, his suffering on the way to crucifixion and his death on the cross. Today is also known as Passion Sunday. His welcome and his rejection are celebrated on the same day.



Table Discussion (at mealtime):

How do you welcome Jesus into your daily lives? Are there ways or times that you reject him?

Family Activity:

You may want to make a special welcome mat for your front entrance or prepare a special place mat for him at your dining room table.

## Day 2: Holy Thursday



John 13: 1 – 15

Before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After he had washed their feet, put on his robe, and returned to the table, Jesus said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord – and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you."

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Reflection:

Today, we celebrate Jesus' last supper with his closest friends. It would have been a special meal, with special food. During the meal, Jesus took the bread and the wine saying, "This is my body broken for you," "This is my blood poured out for you," "Do this in memory of me." He wanted his followers to continue gathering around Jesus' gift of himself in his death on the cross. But he also washed their feet, as a sign of what he would do for them on the cross. Then he told them to be people of service as well, "To wash one another's feet."



Table Discussion (at mealtime):

Take turns washing one another's feet as a sign of service to one another (before or after Supper). Question: "What did you find hardest, washing the feet of others or having your feet washed?" Share the reason why.

Family Activity:



Holy Thursday: Special Supper

Special Dishes:

- Horseradish (bitter herbs): - Suffering that Jesus endured.
- Romaine Lettuce (Green vegetable): - The hope Jesus had in the Father.
- Hard-boiled Egg: - The new life Jesus won for us.
- Lamb: - Jesus offered himself like an innocent lamb.
- Baked Potato: - New Life from the earth.
- Chopped Apple/Raisins/Nuts: - God's many blessings.
- Unleavened Bread & Grape Juice: Signs from the Last Supper.

Opening Prayer: - Lord God, as we come together around our dining room table, we welcome you in our midst. Bless this food, sign of your love and mercy, that we share with one another today. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

As you eat a piece of unleavened bread and a small glass of grape juice say,

“Bread and wine remind us of the way Jesus asked us to remember him.”

As you eat a small portion of horseradish say,

“Horseradish reminds us of the suffering Christ endured.”

As you eat a dish of romaine lettuce say,

“Lettuce reminds us of the hope Jesus had in the Father.”

As you eat the hard-boiled egg say,

“An egg reminds us of the new life Jesus won for us.”

Discussion Question:

“Eggs are often associated with Easter. Why do you think that is?”

As you eat a piece of unleavened bread and a small glass of grape juice say,

“Bread and wine remind us of the way Jesus asked us to remember him.”

As you eat a dish of lamb say,

“Lamb reminds us of how Jesus offered himself up for us.”

As you eat a baked potato say,

“A potato reminds us how new life comes from the tomb.”

Discussion Question:

“Jesus is called the Lamb of God. Why do you think that is?”

As you eat a piece of unleavened bread and a small glass of grape juice say,

“Bread and wine remind us of the way Jesus asked us to remember him.”

As you eat the chopped apple/raisins/nuts say,

“This apples, raisins and nuts reminds us of the many blessings God has given us.”

Discussion question:

“Share three things for which you give thanks to God.”

As you eat a piece of unleavened bread and a small glass of grape juice say,

“Bread and wine remind us of the way Jesus asked to remember him.”

Discussion question:

“What do you think was the most important part of the meal? Why do you think this?”

A Holy Thursday/Good Friday reflection video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=nhFBX5ZSySo&feature=youtu.be>

### Day 3: Good Friday



#### Family Activity:

Make a big cross (out of wood or other materials, drawn on a huge piece of paper or painted). Let it be the centre of your living space. During the day, when you enter this space, spend a moment in reverential silence. If one person made the cross, other members of the family may be encouraged to make something beautiful and place it nearby.

#### Family Prayer Service (before Supper):



Begin with the "Sign of the Cross".

Leader: "We praise you Lord, and we bless you."

All respond: "Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world."

#### Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, who willingly died on the cross to save us from sin and death, help us to understand the great love you have for us and to share that same love with everyone that is part of our lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Reading: Isaiah 53: 3 – 9

He was despised and rejected by men; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; each has turned to their own way and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

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10 seconds of silence

Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, as we reflect on the pain you suffered for our sake, we give you our hearts. We ask you to transform us more and more into your likeness, so that we may love you and others as you have loved us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**