

APRIL 14, 2019
PALM/PASSION
SUNDAY



Jesus forgives us from the cross.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 19:28-40	Blessed is the king who comes
Monday	Isaiah 50:4-9a	God's servant must suffer
Tuesday	Luke 22:14–23:56	The Last Supper and crucifixion
Wednesday	Philippians 2:5-11	Christ shows us true humility
Thursday	John 13:1-17, 31b-35	Jesus washes the disciples' feet
Friday	John 18:1–1:42	The suffering and death of Jesus
Saturday	Psalms 31:1-16	A prayer for protection
Sunday	John 20:1-18	The resurrection of Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." **Luke 23:34a (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God of mercy, thank you for entering our experience of weakness and sin and for sending us out into the world with courage and grace to do your will in the world. Through Christ our Lord, amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

We thank you for this food, a sign of your steadfast love that shines upon us. Amen.
(Psalm 31:16)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord be gracious to you in your distress and may the face of God shine on you with steadfast love. (Psalm 31:9 and 16)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Forgive Our Sins
as We Forgive*



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What would you say is one of your strengths? one of your weaknesses?
- Peter saw himself as loyal to Jesus no matter what, but he was wrong. What is it like to learn something disappointing about yourself?
- Jesus does not let human frailty stop him from forgiving and strengthening his followers. How does this help you live out your life each day?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Luke 23:1-49.

The crucifixion of Jesus tells us a lot about our human tendencies and about our God who defeats human frailty with forgiveness. The crowds praise Jesus' entry into Jerusalem then within a week say, "Crucify him" (v.21). Peter promises to be faithful to Jesus but denies him three times. The people give false witness about Jesus to make him look bad in front of Pilate (v. 2). The leaders, the crowd, and the soldiers mock Jesus, but their words bear the truth of who he really is. Two criminals are killed along with Jesus. One ridicules Jesus while the other seeks his tender care (vv. 40-43). Sinful self-centeredness blinds us to Jesus and his saving grace. In Christ, God is willing to enter our world and participate in vulnerability, injustices, suffering, and death. It shows the way of Jesus' cross as the way of true peace, true life, and true hope. How does the church today reflect the way of the cross and the power of God?

Pray: **Merciful Lord and Savior, you who endured our lies, our fears, and our sin, we praise you for enduring it all from the cross to bring your hope and salvation to us all. Amen.**

SERVICE



Psalms 31 is filled with feelings of pain and loneliness. Homeless people experience pain and loneliness daily. There are many reasons a person becomes homeless. It may be losing a job, illness, drug abuse, domestic abuse, etc. Take time to learn more about the homeless and find an organization near you that helps the homeless. How can you support this organization?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Palm Sunday is the first day of Holy Week. It begins with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. As Jesus entered Jerusalem the people waved palm branches in the air saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven" (Luke 19:39). It is a tradition for Christians all around the world to receive palm branches during worship on Palm Sunday. Light a candle and read Luke 19:28-40 or use a children's storybook Bible. If you have palms, wave or process with the palms in your home. As you do so, say: **Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: **www.milestonesministry.org**