



SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2015

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

This is his body

What would happen if, in contemplating this overwhelming day, we set aside the images of cruelty, betrayal, denial, whips, thorns, and nails and consider *passion* as the expression of the deepest emotions of the heart, that which drives a person to hand her or himself over to another without reservation: "Do with me what you will. I am yours." Jesus' Passion is not only his agony, but the handing over of his whole self—even to violence and death—in order to be faithful to the beloved. You. How loved you are!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Procession: Mark 11:1-10 or John 12:12-16 (37); Mass: Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Mark 14:1-15:47 (38). "She has done a good thing for me."*

MONDAY, MARCH 30 MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK

Jesus has '70s swagger

For young Catholics in the early 1970s, the release of the rock album *Jesus Christ Superstar* was a game changer. The Passion set to contemporary lyrics highlighting the political and philosophical differences between Jesus and Judas made the gospel relevant to a generation awash in social turmoil. Some found the very human portrayal of Jesus offensive—it took the Vatican until 1999 to endorse the musical. But it is good for us hurting humans to be reminded every now and then that Jesus "gets us"—the pain, confusion, and betrayals we face. He's been there and lived to tell the tale, as have his disciples in new ways with each generation. It's your turn now.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 42:1-7; John 12:1-11 (257). "Then Judas the Iscariot said, 'Why was this oil not sold for three hundred days' wages and given to the poor?'"*

TUESDAY, MARCH 31 TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

Enter stage left—the betrayer

Why is a story of betrayal central to our Holy Week experience? Was it really necessary? Is Judas the villain of the story, or perhaps simply a convenient scapegoat? Truth be told, we are all "the betrayer" in one way or another, in that even having heard the Good News, we forget it, neglect it, ignore it, overlook it, more often than we care to admit. Oh well. That is why we indeed need a savior. And though it may seem our betrayals kill him, the story of salvation has a different ending. Stay tuned this week.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 49:1-6; John 13:21-33, 36-38 (258). "Amen, amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me."*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

Slippery slope

The character Faust, of German legend, sold his soul to the devil in return for unlimited knowledge and worldly pleasures. No one in real life (or in their right mind) would agree to such a stark trade, but no one is ever offered that much and at so high a price either. Temptation is much more subtle, as are the small ways you rationalize choices that compromise your values, and therefore it is that much harder to guard against. Remember that your integrity, your character, your self-worth—your soul—is priceless.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 50:4-9a; Matthew 26:14-25 (259). "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?"*

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (HOLY THURSDAY)

Take a closer walk

The Triduum—beginning with the liturgy on the evening of Holy Thursday and ending with evening prayer on Easter Sunday—is the church's most sacred trifection, after the Trinity of course! These moments are part of the one paschal celebration in which we, along with all of creation, journey with Christ through passion, death, burial, and resurrection. As you move from the joyous beginning of Holy Thursday into the quiet stillness of evening, take time to gather your own joys and struggles—and those of the rest of the world—and walk closely with Christ.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-15 (39). "This day shall be a memorial feast for you."*

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

FRIDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION (GOOD FRIDAY); DAY OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE

Cross your heart

Solemnity, prayer . . . and delicious baked goods? It must be Good Friday. There are many ways that people throughout the world honor this sacred day of remembering the death of Jesus. A custom in England, Ireland, and in many countries is to bake hot cross buns. These sweet pastries are typically scored or iced with a cross. Whatever you do this day—bake, work, pray, fast, care, smile, mourn—remember that you and all of creation are blessed with the sign of the cross.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42 (40). "Let us confidently approach the throne of grace."*

SATURDAY, APRIL 4 HOLY SATURDAY

You've arrived!

Many consider the Easter Vigil the most beautiful liturgy of the year. And for good reason—we celebrate not only the Resurrection of the Lord (as if that were not enough!) but our own arriving, our own awakening from the slumber of half-faith into the full light of Easter. Perhaps the words of the great poet T.S. Eliot express it best: "*We shall not cease from exploration / And the end of all our exploring / Will be to arrive where we started / And know the place for the first time.*" Happy Easter!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Vigil: Genesis 1:1-2:2; Genesis 22:1-18; Exodus 14:15-15:1; Exodus 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18; Isaiah 54:5-14; Isaiah 55:1-11; Baruch 3:9-15, 32-4:4; Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28; Romans 6:3-11; Mark 16:1-7 (41). "On the first day of the week, they came to the tomb."*

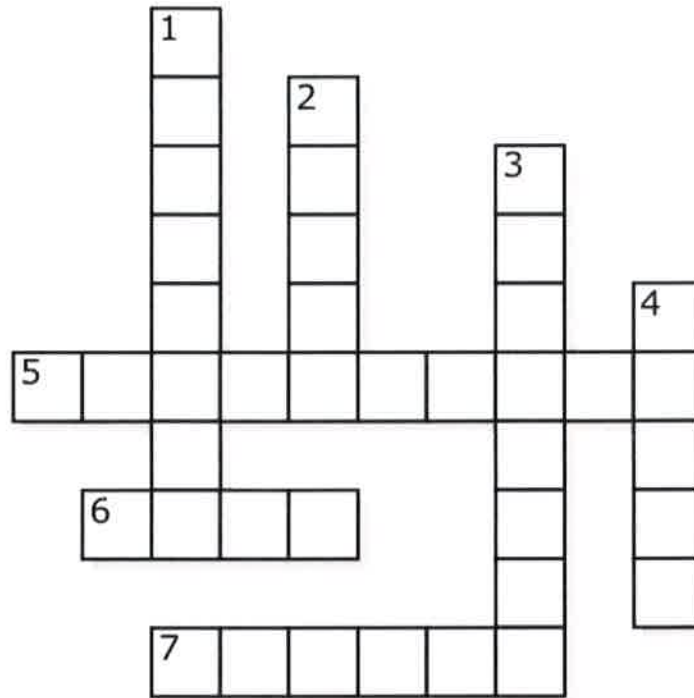


Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

© 2015 by TrueQuest Communications. TakeFiveForFaith.com; 800-942-2811; mail@takefiveforfaith.com. All rights reserved. Daily email sign-up and App available online. Art may be subject to additional copyright. Noncommercial reprints permitted with the following credit: Reprinted with permission from TakeFiveForFaith.com. Scripture citations from the New American Bible Revised Edition. Contributors: Alice Camille, Sister Colleen Gibson, S.S.J., Daniel Grippo, Father Larry Janowski, O.F.M., Sister Maxine Kollasch, I.H.M., Jennifer Tomshack, Patrice J. Tuohy, Sister Julie Vieira, I.H.M.

CatholicMom.com Gospel Activities

Mark 14:1-15:47



Across

- 5) Jesus asked his disciples to sit while he prayed in this place
6) Our gospel reading this week is the account of Jesus' passion from the book of _____
7) Jesus was crowned with these.

Down

- 1) Also known as the Place of the Skull
2) _____ Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples, who betrayed Jesus
3) The people called for this man to be released from prison
4) This follower of Jesus denied him three times