

# WE THIRST FOR YOU, O LORD

## The King of the Jews

*Mark 14:1–15:47*

The final week of Jesus' life was filled with activity, from his triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Sunday until his death on Friday. We remember his actions, his prayers, his trial, his sufferings, and finally his death. As Lent draws to a close, we have the opportunity to join our sorrows more deeply with him so that we, too, can rise again with him on Easter.

Today we are given the entire story of the Passion that will play

out this week. One way to enter more fully into these events is to imagine that you are present at Christ's passion. Take in the details and think about what you would have been thinking or feeling if you were present when Jesus entered into Jerusalem to be greeted by palms and "Hosannas." How would you have reacted when the woman poured precious oil on his feet? What would have been going through your

mind at the Last Supper, the Garden of Gethsemane, or the Way of the Cross? By allowing yourself to enter more fully into the experience of the Passion, Easter Sunday will become even more meaningful.

### FOR REFLECTION

- › What part of the Passion narrative touches me the most deeply?
- › Can I set aside time this week to simply be in the presence of the Lord?
- › How might I more fully immerse myself in Holy Week this year?



## FAMILY ACTIVITY

It is customary to color eggs for Easter in many cultures around the world. Eggs symbolize new life, and they are a wonderful reminder of the new life Christ attained for us. If you have a traditional way of coloring eggs, pass it down and keep alive the tradition. You may also find a white crayon and write the words, “Alleluia” or “He is Risen!” on the eggs before placing them in the dye. Display your finished eggs or give them as Easter gifts.



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## OUR FAITH

# The Suffering Servant

The Old Testament, especially the Book of Isaiah, foretold that the Messiah would have to suffer and die. During this Holy Week, look up the following Scripture passages and see how they can be applied to Jesus, the Suffering Servant of God.

- Isaiah 42 — God’s servant will bring justice to the nations.
- Isaiah 49 — The words of God’s servant about himself.
- Isaiah 50 — How salvation will come through the suffering of God’s servant.
- Isaiah 52 — The suffering of God’s servant will be the salvation of many nations and peoples.

## SIGNS OF THE SEASON

# Holy Week

**Holy Thursday** has a dual emphasis. During the liturgy, we recall the Last Supper and the First Eucharist. At the same time, we commemorate the establishment of the priesthood. As you attend Mass, be sure to pray for all the priests around the world, especially those in areas of persecution.

**Good Friday** is the only day of the year on which Mass is not celebrated. The special Good Friday liturgy, in its solemnity, invites us to enter deeply into the passion of Our Lord. Remember that today is a day of fasting and abstinence.

**Holy Saturday** is the final day of preparation for Easter. During the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night, new members are brought into the Church, and we celebrate the great mystery of our redemption. The Paschal candle that is lit at the Vigil is a sign of the Easter mystery.



## Lenten Prayer

Unto to you, I cry, my God!

“My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?” — Psalm 22:2

*Out of the depths of my sorrow, I call to you. Do not let me be forgotten, Lord, but hear and answer me.*

## Catechism CONNECTION

“Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem manifested the coming of the kingdom that the King-Messiah was going to accomplish by the Passover of his Death and Resurrection. It is with the celebration of that entry on Palm Sunday that the Church’s liturgy solemnly opens Holy Week.”

— *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 560