

Passion (Palm) Sunday

Procession: Matt 21:1-11
Isaiah 50:4-7
Ps 22:8-9,17-20,23-24
Philippians 2:6-11
Matthew 26:14--27:66

Monday April 6
Isaiah 42:1-7
Ps 27:1-3,13-14
John 12:1-11

Tuesday April 7
Isaiah 49:1-6
Ps 71:1-6,15,17
John 13:21-33,36-38

Wednesday April 8
Isaiah 50:4-9
Ps 69:8-10,21-22,31,33-34
Matthew 26:14-25

Holy Thursday April 9
Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14
Ps 116:12-13,15-18
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-15

Good Friday April 10
Isaiah 52:13--53:12
Ps 31:2,6,12-13,15-17,25
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
John 18:1--19:42

The word "passion" has powerful implications. Theologically, we use it to describe the suffering love that Jesus endured for each of us when he was beaten, mocked and crucified as he willingly took onto himself the punishment and destructive forces of our sins.

The world counterfeits the word "passion" by applying it to strong feelings of romantic, even lustful, attraction.

We also use this word to refer to a strong motivation to do something that we enjoy or care about, and thus we can say that Jesus cared "passionately" about us while enduring The Passion.

The strong love that Jesus exhibited in his ministry and on Good Friday is a lesson on what it means to have "compassion" for others. We walk with them in their sufferings; we "suffer with" them. This is passionate love in its holiest

form.

Read the scriptures for Passion Sunday with an eye on how they reveal Jesus' passionate love for *you*.

See yourself in the passion of the people who enthusiastically welcomed Jesus as well as in those who rejected and denied him.

Consider how much compassion Jesus must have felt for you when he subjected himself to the excruciating pains of his final hours. He did this for you despite how much you've hurt him through any lack of compassion for others. Rejoice in his passionate love for you! This



will empower you to repent and grow stronger in holy love for others.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. Looking at the reading from Isaiah, what are some of the ways that good Christians sometimes beat on Jesus, pluck his beard, and spit on him?
2. How does your answer to #1 explain why Jesus emptied himself for you, as the reading from Philippians describes?
3. In what ways does the Passion of Jesus minister to us in our sufferings today?

Lenten Activity:

Bring to mind the most painful way you are suffering compassionately with or for someone else. Connect this to what Jesus did. How does this help you feel more intimately involved with God's salvation plan? How does it make your life a modern Gospel?