



Bringing Home the Word

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (C)

April 13, 2025

He Cannot Save Himself

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Some of us might wonder, as did many of the bystanders on the way to Calvary, why Jesus allowed matters to reach the point they did. We might ask: *He saved others; why didn't he save himself?* Jesus certainly had the power. He demonstrated it often as he traveled the villages and countryside of Israel. Through the centuries, theologians have turned that question over and over, upside down, and inside out. Hadn't he done enough to reveal his identity?

Every answer offered has thrown a bit of light on the question. Still, no answer

has adequately resolved the issue. The question of Jesus' suffering and death is a mystery of our faith. Holy Week offers us an opportunity to reflect on this mystery, to discover something that might deepen that faith and transform our lives—if only a bit.

For example, the goal of Jesus' ministry was the establishment of the reign of God. Everything he said and did pointed to this goal. He never faltered, never backed down in the face of opposition. He was steadfast in his commitment to what he believed was God's will for him, regardless of the price he might have to pay. And pay a tremendous price he did. Jesus' faithfulness to God's will is a model for us. We have responsibilities, some of which might make significant demands of us. Do we hold fast, or do we look for a way out? Holy Week calls us to follow him in his commitment. †



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A Word from Pope Francis

On Calvary, two ways of thinking collided. In the gospel, the words of the crucified Jesus are in sharp contrast with the words of those who crucified him. The latter keep saying: "Save yourself."... This is the constant refrain of the world that crucified the Lord.... The mantra "save yourself" collides with the words of the Savior who *offers his self*.

HOMILY, ROME, APRIL 10, 2022



Sunday Readings

Luke 19:28–40

They proclaimed: / "Blessed is the king who comes / in the name of the Lord. / Peace in heaven / and glory in the highest."

Isaiah 50:4–7; Philippians 2:6–11

[Christ Jesus] emptied himself... becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross.

Luke 22:14—23:56 or 23:1–49

[Jesus prayed,] "Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me; still, not my will but yours be done."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- How can I unite my suffering, my crosses, with the cross of Jesus?
- How can suffering be in itself a prayer?



Join the (Right) Crowd

Paige Byrne Shortal

At our parish on Palm Sunday, we begin the Mass outside with the blessing of palms and the gospel about Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem. Then, we process into church as everyone

waves palm branches and the choir leads us in singing "Hosanna to the Son of David." It's always a bit chaotic as people try to walk and sing and keep track of their kids and then find a seat. Maybe because of the chaos, it feels like a happy occasion, even though we know that the same crowd of people who yelled, "Hosanna!" will, in just a few days, yell, "Crucify him!"

It's human nature to go along with the crowd. That's why it's important to hang out with the right crowd in the right situations and teach our children to do the same. There are a lot of sinful influences in our world—

influences that may lead us or our children to do what we don't want to do. There's a crowd of people gathering this week. All over the world, Christians are coming together to celebrate Holy Week. This is one time when it's a good idea to "join the crowd."

Today, do whatever you need to do so that the whole family can join your church community at the Triduum celebrations this week. Get the clothes ready. Prepare meals ahead of time. Then really enter into Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. Those who pay very close attention during the Triduum celebrations can learn almost all they need to know about being a follower of Jesus. †

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From *Live Lent at Home: Daily Prayers and Activities for Families* by Paige Byrne Shortal, (818691). Available from Liguori Publications. To order, call 800-325-9521 or visit Liguori.org.

Wisdom from Catholic Update

From "Mary at the Foot of the Cross: A Role Model for Peace" by Fr. Michael Rennie

How can we find peace in a world that appears so hopelessly unpeaceful? When wars and violence seem to flare up all around us, when society seems to be increasingly hostile, when our relationships are seemingly more difficult to maintain, and when our own souls are roiled by turmoil? Peace isn't achieved by conquering the world or by fighting violence with violence. Rather, if we want peace, we should make our way to the foot of the cross. Here, we will join Mary. Here, we kneel with our Mother Mary and gaze on the source of all our peace. Christ is the only one who can heal our conflicted hearts and our broken world.

Catholic Update—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. For more information, call 800-325-9521 or visit Liguori.org.



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and trust, we pray—
Lord, let us be like you.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

April 14–19

Monday of Holy Week:

Is 42:1–7 / Jn 12:1–11

Tuesday of Holy Week:

Is 49:1–6 / Jn 13:21–33, 36–38

Wednesday of Holy Week:


Is 50:4–9a / Mt 26:14–25

Holy Thursday: Ex 12:1–8, 11–14 /

1 Cor 11:23–26 / Jn 13:1–15

Good Friday: Is 52:13–53:12 / Heb 4:14–16;
5:7–9 / Jn 18:1–19:42

Holy Saturday: Gn 1:1–2:2 or 1:1, 26–31a /
Gn 22:1–18 or 22:1–2, 9a, 10–13, 15–18 /
Ex 14:15–15:1 / Is 54:5–14 / Is 55:1–11 /
Bar 3:9–15, 32–4:4 / Ez 36:16–17a, 18–28 /
Rom 6:3–11 / Lk 24:1–12

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