

REPENT

Meditations for the
Season of Lent

AND BELIEVE

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.



AdobeStock Images

POINTS TO PONDER

- What part of the Passion narrative touches you the most deeply?
- Can I set aside time this week to simply be in the presence of the Lord?
- As I prepare for Easter, am I spending as much time on spiritual preparations as I am on Easter baskets and a special meal?

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.

“And though every day a man lives may rightly be a day of repentance, yet is it in these days more becoming, more appropriate, to confess our sins, to fast, and to give alms to the poor; since in these days you may wash clean the sins of the whole year.”

— St. John Chrysostom



CATHOLIC INSIGHTS

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 49

The words of God's servant about himself.

Isaiah 50

How salvation will come through the suffering of God's servant.

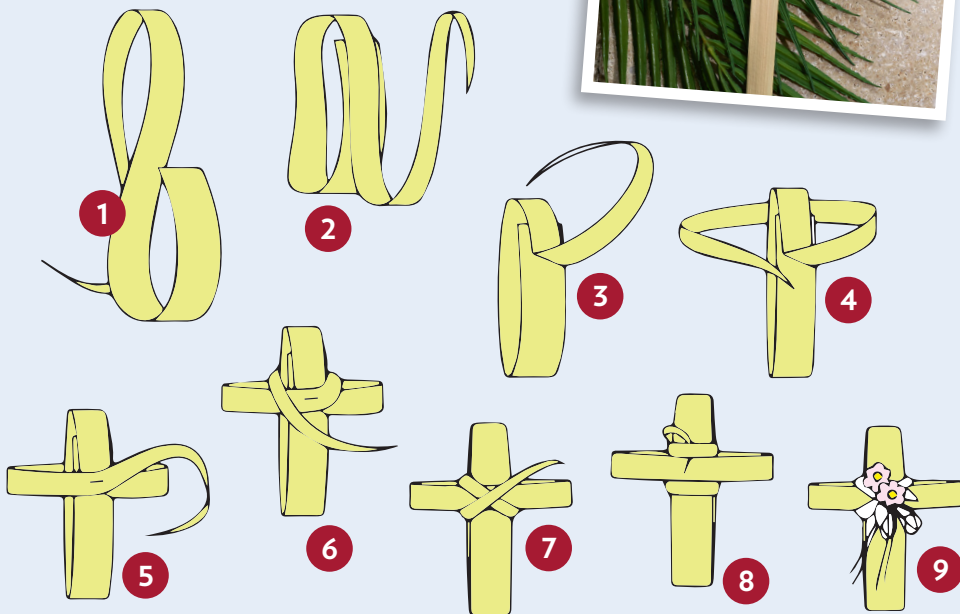
Isaiah 52

The suffering of God's servant will be the salvation of many nations and peoples.

FamilyActivity

Palm Crosses

A traditional way of preserving palms from one year to the next is to make palm crosses.



LENT 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.



HOLY THURSDAY liturgy recalls the Last Supper and the First Eucharist, where Jesus models for us how to serve when he washes the disciples' feet. It also commemorates the establishment of the priesthood.

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

HOLY SATURDAY is the final day of preparation for Easter. During the Easter Vigil, new members are brought into the Church, and we celebrate the great mystery of our redemption. The Pascal candle that is lit at the Vigil remains throughout the year.

CatechismCONNECTION

“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

Karen Callaway

