

Passion Sunday

Entrance Procession:

Luke 19:28-40

Readings for Mass:

Isaiah 50:4-7

Ps 22:8-9,17-20,23-24

Philippians 2:6-11

Luke 22:14--23:56

Monday April 15

Isaiah 42:1-7

Ps 27:1-3,13-14

John 12:1-11

Tuesday April 16

Isaiah 49:1-6

Ps 71:1-6,15,17

John 13:21-33,36-38

Wednesday April 17

Isaiah 50:4-9

Ps 69:8-10,21-22,31,33-34

Matt 26:14-25

Holy Thursday April 18

The Lord's Supper

Exodus 12:1-8,11-14

Ps 116:12-13,15-18

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-15

Good Friday April 19

The Lord's Passion

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

This Sunday begins the highest holy week of the liturgical year. Will it also begin in your life a high holy experience of uniting yourself to Jesus and to his awesome love?



There's a key phrase in the reading that we hear at the beginning of this Mass, during the Procession with Palms, which sums up this experience of your union with God: "The Master has need of it."

Why did Jesus use a colt for his ride into Jerusalem? We each have a "colt" tied up somewhere in our lives. It's anything that belongs to us and is not yet being shared with Christ: It could be our possessions, talents, skills, creativity, time, or energy. The Master has need of it! But sometimes we selfishly tie these up with our own

agendas. They could be useful to Jesus. Like the colt that Jesus rode, they could become gifts that glorify our Savior.

Palm Sunday teaches us that he deserves to be glorified for his awesome love, which he made visible on the cross. Who else would die for you -- with *that* much suffering? Jesus sacrificed his comfort and his body and blood to take the punishment that we deserve for our sins.

We should rejoice gratefully for this every Sunday with hosannas and admiration, for in the Eucharist we reunite ourselves to that tremendous love. In this communion, why aren't we grinning like lovers who have become joined to their beloved? The answer to that is: Our "colts" are still tied to the post.

Jesus has sent his disciples to you to ask you to share your "colt" with Jesus. They are at the altar consecrating the Eucharist for you. They are writing bulletin "help wanted" blurbs. They are interrupting you at work asking for your prayers or counsel or other assistance. They are the strangers who are in need of your charitable donations.

Who have you heard asking you to become more involved in the plans of God's kingdom?

Reflect & Discuss:

1. Make a list of the "colts" in your life. Which ones would you like Jesus to put to good use?
2. Describe a "colt" in your life that Jesus has need of.
3. How can giving control of it over to Jesus help him complete his Good Friday sacrifice in today's world?