

ABOUT the SUNDAY of the PASSION
[PALM SUNDAY]

Theme: Through Suffering to Glory
– *highlighting the Scriptures for the week* –

Suffering - the very word makes us cringe. Yet the LORD's Servant did not shrink from suffering. (Isaiah) He looked to the LORD God (NIV: "Sovereign LORD") to instruct and lead Him in obedient faith. Therefore He did not shrink from those who beat Him, He would not cringe from shame and spitting. The Promised Suffering Servant has come (Philippians): He is none other than God the Son who, emptying Himself of glorious majesty, was found in human likeness. Humbly obedient to the Father's will, He lowered Himself to the death of the cross and now enjoys the praise of all creation in exalted glory. For this purpose He entered into Jerusalem, that He might bear the sins of all, redeeming the whole world in His passion [suffering]. (Matthew) For the joy of His redeeming love, He endured it all: the lynching by the mob, the shameful mocking and the spitting, the nailing and the dying. Abandoned in His death because of our sin, He broke the hold of death and achieved the resurrection of the flesh for all who trust in Him.

WEEKLY BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Use the schedule below in your personal devotion. The first three readings are the lessons read today; the last three will be read next Sunday. The Wednesday reading is the psalmody for the week. Each day you may want to pray that psalm or the prayer printed in our service folder today, followed by the suggested reading and your personal requests and thanksgivings to our heavenly Father.

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| Sunday | Isaiah 50:4-9a Who is it that offered His back to His tormenters and did not hide His face from shame and spitting? What therefore may we learn from Jesus about obedient faith? About confident determination? How is this done? |
| Monday | Philippians 2:5-11 What was Jesus' relationship with God the Father? For what reason did He humble Himself? To what extent? What happened then? Where is Jesus now? How should He be worshipped? How and when do you confess that Jesus Christ is Lord? |
| Tuesday | Matthew 27:11-66 <u>The Passion Narrative</u> Trace the unfolding plot in the drama of Jesus' suffering (passion): which are the turning points? What is His climactic cry? What does it mean in English? What does this mean for our salvation? What was the immediate result of Jesus' death? How did the earth respond? How did the dead respond? What will happen on the Last Day? What does this mean? |
| Wednesday | Psalms 118:19-29 Psalm 118 is the last of the so-called 'Hallel Psalms,' used in synagogue services and especially at the Passover meal. Why is it so fitting? How does v. 22 especially fit this Holy Week? What other aspects of vv. 19-29 are applicable to this Holy Week? |
| Thursday | Acts 10:34-43 How did God prepare salvation for all peoples beginning with His people Israel? What happened in Galilee after the baptism of John? What happened to Jesus in Jerusalem? What happened on the third day? Who saw Jesus alive and well after He was dead? What is His stipulated command? What is His absolute promise? What does this mean? |
| Friday | Colossians 3:1-4 Having died and risen with Christ in Baptism, where are our hearts to be fixed? Who/where is our life? When will the true nature and extent of our life be revealed? What does this mean? |
| Saturday | John 20:1-18 What was the initial explanation for the empty tomb of Jesus? What did Peter and John see as they looked in? What did John believe? What had they not understood previously? Why therefore is Scripture so important for us? What signs and seals of the resurrection are we given today? What does this mean? |