



OPENING PRAYER

+In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

Father God, thank you for this time with you. May the Holy Spirit be upon me, that I may receive wisdom from your Word, be open to Your holy Will and give glory to You always. Through Christ our Lord, Amen

Our Father + Hail Mary + Glory Be

LECTIO DIVINA

Invite the Holy Spirit - Read - Reflect - Respond in Prayer - Rest in Silence

Gospel: Mark 15: 1-39 (USCCB SHORT VERSION) ** For the full Gospel reading: Mark 14:1–15:47

As soon as morning came, the chief priests with the elders and the scribes, that is, the whole Sanhedrin held a council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate questioned him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He said to him in reply, "You say so." The chief priests accused him of many things. Again Pilate questioned him, "Have you no answer? See how many things they accuse you of." Jesus gave him no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed. Now on the occasion of the feast he used to release to them one prisoner whom they requested. A man called Barabbas was then in prison along with the rebels who had committed murder in a rebellion. The crowd came forward and began to ask him to do for them as he was accustomed. Pilate answered, "Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?" For he knew that it was out of envy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate again said to them in reply, "Then what do you want me to do with the man you call the king of the Jews?" They shouted again, "Crucify him." Pilate said to them, "Why? What evil has he done?" They only shouted the louder, "Crucify him." So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas to them and, after he had Jesus scourged, handed him over to be crucified. The soldiers led him away inside the palace, that is, the praetorium, and assembled the whole cohort. They clothed him in purple and, weaving a crown of thorns, placed it on him. They began to salute him with, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and kept striking his head with a reed and spitting upon him. They knelt before him in homage. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him out to crucify him. They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. They brought him to the place of Golgotha –which is translated Place of the Skull – They gave him wine drugged with myrrh, but he did not take it. Then they crucified him and divided his garments by casting lots for them to see what each should take. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." With him they crucified two revolutionaries, one on his right and one on his left. Those passing by reviled him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself by coming down from the cross." Likewise the chief priests, with the scribes, mocked him among themselves and said, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also kept abusing him. At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*" which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "Look, he is calling Elijah." One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink saying, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down." Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

Here all kneel and pause for a short time.

The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

Make time to read the **full Gospel reading: Mark 14:1 - 15:47**. The Passion account reminds us of the many graces God gives us. Reflect on the readings and think about how Jesus' sacrifice and love is still with us today - in the liturgy and in the Sacraments. Is there one moment during the Passion where you feel closest to Christ?

Reading I: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The Lord GOD has given me a well-trained tongue, that I might know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them. Morning after morning he opens my ear that I may hear; and I have not rebelled, have not turned back. I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting. The Lord GOD is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame.

This passage refers to an anonymous servant, who is resilient in the face of suffering. Jesus' suffering, crucifixion and death helps us appreciate what the servant experienced. What do you think it means to not make a sound when being abused? How is it that our ears are opened by God and tongue trained by the Lord? What transformative things can happen to us when we suffer?

RESPONSORIAL PSALM RESPONSE: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Reading II: Philippians 2:6-11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

St. Paul discusses Jesus as the Anointed One, obedient and accepting death on the cross. What can we learn about Jesus' humility? What are examples of self-emptying behaviors you have witnessed? God does not expect our sacrifices to be identical to Christ's offering on the cross. How can we sacrifice and be obedient to the 'point of death'?

Feast days this week

SUNDAY 24 PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
MONDAY 25 MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK
TUESDAY 26 TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK
WEDNESDAY 27 WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK
THURSDAY 28 THURSDAY OF HOLY WEEK (HOLY THURSDAY)
FRIDAY 29 FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (GOOD FRIDAY)
SATURDAY 30 HOLY SATURDAY

Notes

reflect

Think about how immeasurable God's love is for you!

pray

Father God, help me to prayerfully and closely follow Jesus in His Passion this Holy Week.
Through Christ our Lord,
Amen

live

Demonstrate selfless, sacrificial love.