

Our Lady of Loretto and St Michael with St Martin of Tours

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

(YEAR A)

The Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem



The Entrance Gospel A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When they were near Jerusalem and had come in sight of Bethpage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village facing you, and you will immediately find a tethered donkey and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you are to say, 'the Master needs them and will send them back directly.'" This took place to fulfil the prophecy: *Say to the daughter of Zion: Look, your king comes to you; he is humble, he rides on a donkey and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.*

So, the disciples went out and did as Jesus had told them. They brought the donkey and the colt, then they laid their cloaks on their backs and he sat on them. Great crowds of people spread their cloaks on the road, while others were cutting branches from trees and spreading them in his path. The crowds who went in front of him and those who followed were all shouting: "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heavens!"

And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil. "Who is this?" people asked, and the crowds answered, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee." **The Gospel of the Lord**

FIRST READING A reading from the prophet Isaiah (50:4-7)

The Lord God has given me
a disciple's tongue.
So that I may know how to reply to the wearied
he provides me with speech.
Each morning he wakes me to hear,
to listen like a disciple.

The Lord God has opened my ear.
For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.
I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face
against insult and spittle.
The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint,
I know I shall not be ashamed. **The Word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R. My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend.' **R.**

Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet
I can count every one of my bones. **R.**

They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me! **R.**

I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.
You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons. **R.**

SECOND READING A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians (2:6-11)

His state was divine,
yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God
but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are;
and being as all men are, he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the
underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
The Word of the Lord.

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Gospel Acclamation (Ph 2:8-9)

R. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory. Christ was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all names. R. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory.

THE PASSION GOSPEL: The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord
(All Bow until Mary)
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.**

The Beast of Burden

- The term “beast of burden” seems to have been claimed by the donkey for its own!
- There are reputed to be about 44 million donkeys and mules in the world today, most of them contributing draft power for agriculture and transport.
- Donkeys are reputed to be able to pull three times their own weight.
- They are alert, intelligent and cautious animals and these are useful traits when used to carry loads.
- Panic is the last thing you want and if a donkey perceives danger it will generally stay rooted to the spot.
- The classical image of the donkey in many parts of the world today is that of a small animal with a monstrous load, or an oversize person on its back being goaded along with a stick from behind rather than being led.
- It is recommended that 51-52kg should be the maximum weight for a 10-11hands high donkey to carry.
- Donkeys are the classical pack animal for when the going gets tough, as apart from their strength, they are extremely sure footed.
- Their strong innate ability to follow each other is exploited when they are used as pack animals as no leads are needed as in packing with horses.
- Donkeys are not built to gallop like the horse with their like the zebra trot. Even when bolting they will not go far.
- With narrow shoulders they are not as comfortable a ride as a horse.
- Some riders advocate sitting on the strongest part of the donkey’s back on top of the rump at the hips

