



*My God,*  
why have you  
abandoned me?

PSALM 22

*Palm Sunday*

*March 29, 2026*



# Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

## Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance Into Jerusalem

Today's triumphant procession with palms, combined with the dramatic reading of the passion, sets the keynote for the whole of Holy Week. The death of Christ is a tragedy, revealing our own sinfulness; our rejection has sent him to his death on the cross. But the story doesn't end in Christ's death and our condemnation. By raising Christ from the dead, God has restored life to the world. As we seek to unite ourselves with Christ in his suffering and death, we can look with confidence to resurrection with him. Christ's death then is not merely a tragedy; his acceptance of death makes it a way to resurrection. The passion narratives are shot through with this understanding of Jesus' death, and he is portrayed as a King who conquers sin and death rather than a tragic hero who merely submits to them. Because Christ is risen from the dead, the way of Holy Week is not only the way of the cross but also the royal road to victory. Our glory is the cross of Christ, for in him we have salvation, life, and resurrection; we have been saved and set free.

### Gospel Reading

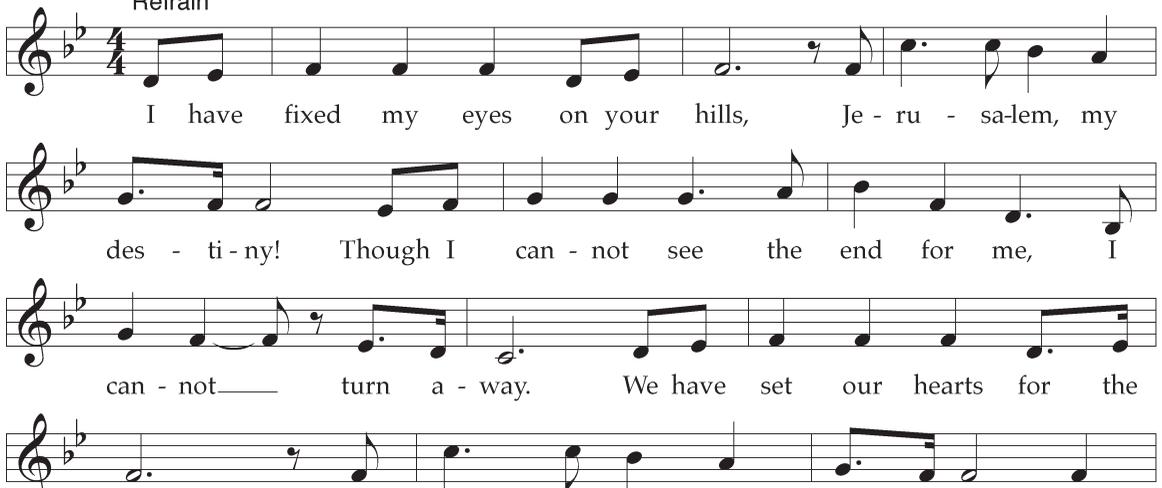
Matthew 21:1–11

### Blessing and Distribution of Palms



### JERUSALEM, MY DESTINY

Refrain



I have fixed my eyes on your hills, Je - ru - sa-lem, my  
des - ti - ny! Though I can - not see the end for me, I  
can - not ——— turn a - way. We have set our hearts for the  
way; this jour - ney is our des - ti - ny. Let

no - one walk a - lone. The jour - ney makes us one.

Verses

1. Oth - er spir - its, less - er gods, have court - ed  
 2. See, I leave the past be - hind; a new land  
 3. In my thirst, you let me drink the wa - ters  
 4. All the worlds I have not seen you o - pen  
 5. To the tombs I went to mourn the hope I

1. me with \_\_\_\_\_ lies. \_\_\_\_\_ Here a - mong you  
 2. calls to \_\_\_\_\_ me. \_\_\_\_\_ Here a - mong you  
 3. of your \_\_\_\_\_ life. \_\_\_\_\_ Here a - mong you  
 4. to my \_\_\_\_\_ view. \_\_\_\_\_ Here a - mong you  
 5. thought was \_\_\_\_\_ gone. \_\_\_\_\_ Here a - mong you

1. I have found a truth which bids me rise.  
 2. now I find a glimpse of what might be.  
 3. I have met the sa - vior, Je - sus Christ.  
 4. I have found a vi - sion, bright and new.  
 5. I a - woke to un - ex - pect - ed dawn.

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First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-7

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 22, My God, My God

My God, my \_\_\_\_\_ God, why have you a - ban - doned me?

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LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise and honor to you, Lord Jesus Christ! Praise and honor to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

TUNE: © 2021 FRANCESCA LA ROSA TEXT: EXCERPTS FROM THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE ROMAN MISSAL

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Proclamation of the Passion

Matthew 26:14–27:66

**NARRATOR:** One of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,

**JUDAS:** "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?"

**NARRATOR:** They paid him thirty pieces of silver, and from that time on he looked for an opportunity to hand him over. On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples approached Jesus and said,

**DISCIPLES:** "Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover?"

**NARRATOR:** He said,

**JESUS:** "Go into the city to a certain man, and tell him, 'The Teacher says, My appointed time draws near; in your house I shall celebrate the Passover with my disciples.'"

**NARRATOR:** The disciples then did as Jesus had ordered, and prepared the Passover. When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said,

**JESUS:** "Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me."

**NARRATOR:** Deeply distressed at this, they began to say to him one after another,

**DISCIPLES:** "Surely it is not I, Lord?"

**NARRATOR:** He said in reply,

JESUS: "He who has dipped his hand into the dish with me is the one who will betray me. The Son of Man indeed goes, as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would be better for that man if he had never been born."

NARRATOR: Then Judas, his betrayer, said in reply,

JUDAS: "Surely it is not I, Rabbi?"

NARRATOR: He replied,

JESUS: "You have said so."

NARRATOR: While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples, said,

JESUS: "Take and eat; this is my body."

NARRATOR: Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying,

JESUS: "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, from now on I shall not drink this fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new with you in the kingdom of my Father."

NARRATOR: Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,

JESUS: "This night all of you will have your faith in me shaken, for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be dispersed.' But after I am raised up, I shall go before you to Galilee."

NARRATOR: Peter said to him in reply

PETER: "Though all may have their faith in you shaken, mine will never be."

NARRATOR: Jesus said to him,

JESUS: "Amen, I say to you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times."

NARRATOR: Peter said to him,

PETER: "Even though I should have to die with you, I will not deny you."

NARRATOR: And all the disciples spoke likewise. Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,

JESUS: "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

NARRATOR: He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then he said to them,

JESUS: "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here, and keep watch with me."

NARRATOR: He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying,

JESUS: "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not as I will, but as you will."

NARRATOR: When he returned to his disciples he found them asleep. He said to Peter,

JESUS: "So, could you not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

NARRATOR: Withdrawing a second time, he prayed again,

JESUS: "My Father, if it is not possible that this cup pass without my drinking it, your will be done."

NARRATOR: Then he returned once more and found them asleep, for they could not keep their eyes open. He left them and withdrew again and prayed a third time, saying the same thing again. Then he returned to his disciples and said to them,

JESUS: "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold, the hour is at hand when the Son of Man is to be handed over to sinners. Get up, let us go. Look, my betrayer is at hand."

NARRATOR: While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; accompanied by a large crowd, with swords and clubs, who had come from the chief priests and the elders of the people. His betrayer had arranged a sign with them, saying,

JUDAS: "The man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him."

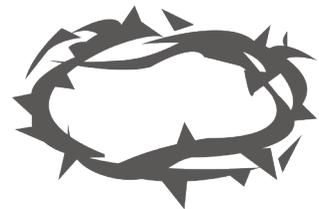
NARRATOR: Immediately he went over to Jesus and said,

JUDAS: "Hail, Rabbi!"

NARRATOR: and he kissed him. Jesus answered him,

JESUS: "Friend, do what you have come for."

NARRATOR: Then stepping forward they laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. And behold, one of those who accompanied Jesus put his hand to his sword, drew it, and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him,



JESUS: "Put your sword back into its sheath, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot call upon my Father, and he will not provide me at this moment with more than twelve legions of angels? But then how would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must come to pass in this way?"

NARRATOR: At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

JESUS: "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to seize me? Day after day I sat teaching in the temple area, yet you did not arrest me. But all this has come to pass that the writings of the prophets may be fulfilled."

NARRATOR: Then all the disciples left him and fled. Those who had arrested Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the high priest's courtyard, and going inside, he sat down with the servants to see the outcome. The chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin kept trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus in order to put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. Finally two came forward who stated,

**CROWD: "This man said, 'I can destroy the temple of God and within three days rebuild it.'"**

NARRATOR: The high priest rose and addressed him,

HIGH PRIEST: "Have you no answer? What are these men testifying against you?"

NARRATOR: But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him,

HIGH PRIEST: "I order you to tell us under oath before the living God, whether you are the Christ, the Son of God."

NARRATOR: Jesus said to him in reply,

JESUS: "You have said so. But I tell you, From now on you will see 'the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power' and coming on the clouds of heaven."

NARRATOR: Then the high priest tore his robes and said,

HIGH PRIEST: "He has blasphemed! What further need have we of witnesses? You have now heard the blasphemy; What is your opinion?"

NARRATOR: They said in reply,

**CROWD: "He deserves to die!"**

NARRATOR: Then they spat in his face and struck him; while some slapped him, saying,

**CROWD: "Prophecy for us, Christ! Who is it that struck you?"**

NARRATOR: Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. One of the maids came over to him and said,

**CROWD: "You too were with Jesus the Galilean."**

NARRATOR: But he denied it before all of them, saying,

PETER: "I do not know what you are talking about."

NARRATOR: As he went out to the gate, another girl saw him, and said to those who were there,

**CROWD: This man was with Jesus the Nazorean."**

NARRATOR: Again he denied it with an oath,

PETER: "I do not know the man."

NARRATOR: A little later the bystanders came over and said to Peter,

**CROWD: Surely you too are one of them; even your speech gives you away."**

NARRATOR: At that he began to curse and to swear,

PETER: "I do not know the man!"

NARRATOR: And immediately a cock crowed. Then Peter remembered the words that Jesus had spoken: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." He went out and began to weep bitterly. When it was morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor. Then Judas, his betrayer, seeing that Jesus had been condemned, deeply regretted what he had done. He returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying,



JUDAS: "I have sinned in betraying innocent blood."

NARRATOR: They said,

**CROWD: "What is that to us? Look to it yourself."**

NARRATOR: Flinging the money into the temple, he departed and went off and hanged himself. The chief priests gathered up the money, but said,

**CROWD:** "It is not lawful to deposit this in the temple treasury, for it is the price of blood."

NARRATOR: After consultation, they used it to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners. That is why that field even today is called the Field of Blood. Then was fulfilled what had been said through Jeremiah the prophet... "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of a man with a price on his head, a price set by some of the Israelites, and they paid it out for the potter's field just as the Lord had commanded me." Now Jesus stood before the governor, (Pontius Pilate,) and he questioned him,

PILATE: "Are you the King of the Jews?"

NARRATOR: Jesus said,

JESUS: "You say so."

NARRATOR: And when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he made no answer. Then Pilate said to him,

PILATE: "Do you not hear how many things they are testifying against you?"

NARRATOR: But he did not answer him one word, so that the governor was greatly amazed. Now on the occasion of the feast, the governor was accustomed to release to the crowd one prisoner whom they wished. And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when they had assembled, Pilate said to them,

PILATE: "Which one do you want me to release to you, Barabbas or Jesus called Christ?"

NARRATOR: For he knew that it was out of envy that they had handed him over. While he was still seated on the bench, his wife sent him a message, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man. I suffered much in a dream today because of him." The chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas but to destroy Jesus. The governor said to them in reply,

PILATE: "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?"

NARRATOR: They answered,

**CROWD:** "Barabbas."

NARRATOR: Pilate said to them,

PILATE: "Then what shall I do with Jesus called Christ?"

NARRATOR: They all said,

**CROWD:** "Let him be crucified!"

NARRATOR: But he said,

PILATE: "Why, What evil has he done?"

NARRATOR: They only shouted the louder,

**CROWD:** "Let him be crucified!"

NARRATOR: When Pilate saw that he was not succeeding at all, but that a riot was breaking out instead, he took water and washed his hands in the sight of the crowd, saying,

PILATE: "I am innocent of this man's blood; look to it yourselves."

NARRATOR: And the whole people said in reply,

**CROWD:** "His blood be upon us and upon our children!"

NARRATOR: Then he released Barabbas to them; but after he had scourged Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus inside the praetorium and gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped off his clothes and threw a scarlet military cloak about him. Weaving a crown out of thorns, they placed it on his head, and a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying,

**CROWD:** "Hail, King of the Jews!"

NARRATOR: They spat on him, and took the reed and kept striking him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the cloak, dressed him in his own clothes and led him off to crucify him. As they were going out, they met a Cyrenian named Simon; this man they pressed into service to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they gave Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he refused to drink. After they had crucified him, they divided his garments by casting lots; then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And they placed over his head the written charge against him: "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and the other on his left. Those passing by reviled him, shaking their head and saying,

**CROWD:** "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself if you are the Son of God, and come down from the cross."

NARRATOR: Likewise the chief priest with the scribes and elders mocked him and said,

**CROWD:** "He saved others; he cannot save himself. So he is the King of Israel! Let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he wants him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God!'"

NARRATOR: The revolutionaries who were crucified with him also kept abusing him in the same way. From noon onward, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

JESUS: "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?"

NARRATOR: which means,

JESUS: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

NARRATOR: Some of the bystanders who heard it said,

**CROWD:** "This one is calling for Elijah."

NARRATOR: Immediately one of them ran to get a sponge; he soaked it in wine, and putting it on a reed, gave it to him to drink. But the rest said,

**CROWD:** "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to save him."

NARRATOR: But Jesus cried again in a loud voice, and gave up his spirit.

*Please kneel*

NARRATOR: And behold, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth quaked, rocks were split, tombs were opened, and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised. And coming forth from their tombs after his resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many. The centurion and the men with him who were keeping watch over Jesus feared greatly when they saw the earthquake and all that was happening, and they said,

**CROWD:** "Truly, this was the Son of God!"

NARRATOR: There were many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be handed over. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in a clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed. But Mary Magdalene and the other Mary remained sitting

there, facing the tomb. The next day, the one following the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,

**CROWD:** "Sir, we remember that this impostor while still alive said, 'After three days I will be raised up.' Give orders, then, that the grave be secured until the third day, lest his disciples come and steal him and say to the people, 'He has been raised from the dead.' This last imposture would be worse than the first."

**NARRATOR:** Pilate said to them,

**PILATE:** "The guard is yours; secure it as best you can."

**NARRATOR:** So they went and secured the tomb by fixing a seal to the stone and setting the guard.

**Priest:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## Homily

### Apostles Creed

*I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, 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.*

### Preparation of the Gifts

#### THE JESUS SONG

Lord Je-sus Christ, Son of God, have mer-cy on me,

have mer-cy on me. Lord Je-sus Christ, Son of God, have



mer-cy on me, have mer-cy on me. A-men.



Je - sus, I trust in you. Je - sus, I trust in



you. You are the Son of the Liv - ing God. Je - sus,



I trust in you. Je - sus, I trust in you.

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## HOLY



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts. Hea - ven and earth are



full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high -



est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na, Ho -



san - na in the high - est.

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## MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

We pro - claim your\_ Death, O Lord, and pro - fess your Res - ur - rec-tion\_ un -  
til you come a - gain, un - til you come a - gain.

## GREAT AMEN

A - men, a - men, a - men,  
a - - - - - men.

## LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take\_ a - way\_ the sins of the world,\_  
\_ have mer - cy, have mer - cy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take\_ a - way\_ the  
sins of the world,\_ grant us, grant\_ us peace,  
grant\_ us peace, grant\_ us peace,  
grant us, grant\_ us peace.

# Communion Songs

## JESUS, THE LORD

Refrain

Je - sus. Je - sus. Let all crea - tion bend the knee to the Lord.

The Refrain is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two lines of music. The first line has a fermata over the second measure, with a '2' above it. The second line has a fermata over the final measure, with a '3' above it.

Verse 1

1. In him we live, we move and have our be-ing; In  
1. him the Christ, in him the king! Je - sus, the Lord. \_\_\_\_\_

to Refrain

Verse 1 is written in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of two lines of music. The first line ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The second line ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Verse 2

2. Though Son, he did not cling to  
2. god - li - ness; but emp-tied him - self, be -  
2. came a slave! Je - sus, the Lord.

to Refrain

Verse 2 is written in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of three lines of music. The first line ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The second line ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The third line ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

(please turn the page)



Verse 3

3. He lived o - be - dient-ly his  
 3. Fa - ther's will ac - cept-ing his death, death on a  
 3. tree! Je - sus, the Lord.

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## PRAYER AT GETHSEMANE



## Closing Song

### JESUS, REMEMBER ME

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your King - dom.  
 Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your King - dom.

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