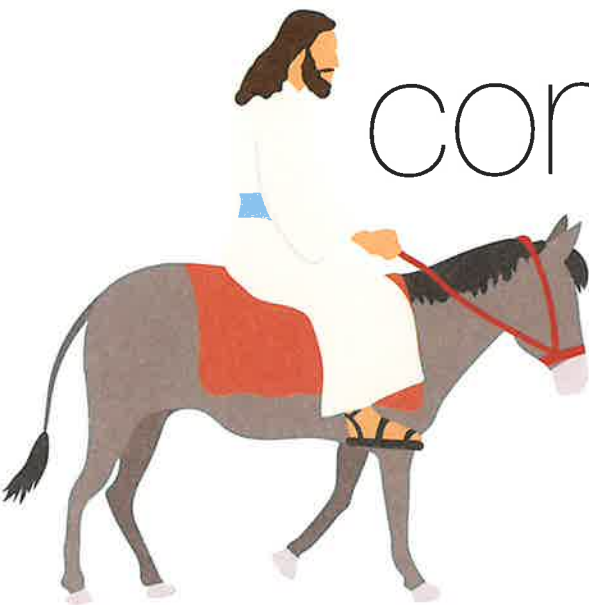


# SUNDAY *Plus*

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord **Divine Office Week II** Year A

Your king  
comes  
to  
you



Why an ass? Was it simply that he was tired? It hardly seems likely, for Jesus, throughout the Gospel narrative, seems to have been a very vigorous walker. Probably he wished to give some ceremony to his last entry into the city, but there was nothing very dignified in such a mount... The significance of the choice becomes evident when we remember that, throughout the Old Testament, the ass is the symbol of peace, humility and a quiet life, while the horse is the symbol of war, rapine and luxury... by the choice of this humble mount, Jesus gave the messianic gesture; the triumphal entry he was preparing was that foretold by the prophet Zechariah, and he wished, upon this day when the strands of his destiny were knotting together, to proclaim the fact.

It was not a Roman triumph; there were no marching legions or captives in chains...

The Pharisees, who had spies everywhere, were alarmed. They had expected that Jesus would come to Jerusalem for the Passover but they hoped he would arrive inconspicuously, as he had always done in the past. But, instead, he was being accorded a triumphal entry and ostensibly assuming the messianic pose. St Luke tells us that some of the Pharisees angrily besought Jesus to rebuke the acclaiming crowds. "I tell you, if they should keep silence," he said, "the stones will cry out instead." ...

He must have entered the city by the Golden Gate... the nearest to the Temple to which Jesus immediately went.

Henri Daniel-Rops, *Jesus and His Times*

Let us resolve to bring [God's] love everywhere, never forgetting that each of our sisters and brothers is a dwelling place of God and that his presence is manifested above all in the little ones, in the poor and the suffering, who ask us to be thoughtful and compassionate Christians.

Pope Leo XIV

## The Donkey


When fishes flew and forests walked  
And figs grew upon thorn,  
Some moment when the moon was blood  
Then surely, I was born.

With monstrous head and sickening cry  
And ears like errant wings,  
The devil's walking parody  
On all four-footed things.

The tattered outlaw of the earth,  
Of ancient crooked will;  
Starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb,  
I keep my secret still.

Fools! For I also had my hour;  
One far fierce hour and sweet:  
There was a shout about my ears,  
And palms before my feet.

G. K. Chesterton

Lord, many people are hurting and walk with you in a special way during Holy Week, Comfort them and give them the courage and strength that they need.  Amen.

## Feast of the week Friday 3 April Good Friday

The road to Calvary passes through the streets we tread each day. Usually, Lord, we are walking in the other direction, and so it may just happen that we encounter you, catch sight of your face, meet your gaze. We are going about our way as usual, and you are coming towards us. Your eyes look into our hearts. Then we find it hard to continue on, as if nothing happened. We can turn around, contemplate you and follow you. We can walk in your footsteps and come to realize that it was good for us to change direction.

Pope Francis, *Via Crucis 2025*



## READINGS

**Today:**  
Isaiah 50:4-7  
Philippians 2:6-11  
Matthew 26:14 - 27:66

**Monday:**  
Isaiah 42:1-7  
John 12:1-11

**Tuesday:**  
Isaiah 49:1-6  
John 13:21-33, 36-38

**Wednesday:**  
Isaiah 50:4-9  
Matthew 26:14-25

**Thursday:**  
Chrism Mass:  
Isaiah 61:1-3, 6, 8-9  
Apocalypse 1:5-8  
Luke 4:16-21  
Evening Mass:  
Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14  
1 Corinthians 11:23-28  
John 13:1-15

**Friday:**  
The Celebration of the Passion of the Lord:  
Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12  
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9  
John 18:1 - 19:42

**Saturday:**  
Romans 6:3-11  
Matthew 28:1-10

**Next Sunday:**  
Acts 10:34, 37-43  
Colossians 3:1-4 or  
1 Corinthians 5:6-8  
John 20:1-9