Readings for the week of April 13, 2025

Sunday:
Lk 19:28-40/Is 50:4-7/
Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 (2a)/
Phil 2:6-11/Lk 22:14—23:56 or 23:1-49

Monday:
Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14/Jn 12:1-11

Tuesday:
Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17/
Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday:
Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34/
Mt 26:14-25

Thursday:
Chrism Mass: Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9/
Ps 89:21-22, 25 and 27/Rv 1:5-8/Lk 4:16-21
Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper:
Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18 (see 1 Cor 10:16)/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15

Friday:
Is 52:13—53:12/Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25 (Lk 23:46)/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/
Jn 18:1—19:42

Saturday:
Easter Vigil: Gn 1:1—2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a/Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 or Ps 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22 (5b)/Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 (1)/Ex 14:15—15:1/
Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18 (1b)/Is 54:5-14/
Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 (2a)/Is 55:1-11/
Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (3)/Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4/
Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 (Jn 6:68c)/Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19 (12a)/Rom 6:3-11/
Lk 24:1-12

Next Sunday:
Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Lk 24:1-12

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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

"As he rode along, the people were spreading their cloaks on the road." (Luke 19:36)

Consider how useless it is to spread your clothes on the ground for a donkey to walk on. The clothes get smeared with hooves, and who knows the grimy places where they've been? The animal may leave some unsavory presents on them. They may get stolen by a thief looking to make a buck. The thorns, thistles, rocks and muck of the road will leave stains. The clothes may never be useful again, and you'll probably walk home shivering without your normal covering. Yet this is precisely the gesture the people employ to welcome Jesus and his donkey. Why does this detail matter?

Wastefulness is an essential part of celebration. Consider the unnecessary extravagance of Christmas decorations, confetti and ticker tape parades, baseball players spraying each other with bottles of champagne after a victory, birthday gifts for kids and so on. This wastefulness signals celebration and therefore participation in higher identities (as believers, winners, and parents, to mention the above examples). That's what the wasted cloaks are all about. Those who donate their cloaks participate in Christ's kingship in Jerusalem — and we savor it two thousand years later.

The lesson? Learn how to "waste" money, time, clothes, and food on Christ. We do this at Mass, but in so many other ways, too, like serving the poor, going on retreats, and doing prayerful study. When we practice this holy wastefulness, Jesus will ride into our lives and we'll be more deeply members of his kingdom.

— Father John Muir

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: I'm Catholic. I'm proud of being Catholic. But is that wordless witness really evangelization?

The Stones Will Cry Out
I have a complicated relationship with evangelization.

I don't think that we (I'm talking about 21st-century American Catholics here) have had much formation around what exactly it means to proclaim the Gospel. We don't know how to do it. We don't really *want* to do it. It sounds kind of scary and awkward. It sounds like knocking on strangers' doors and yelling through the keyhole, "Have you accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior?" It sounds like arguing with friends and family. It sounds like a real pain.

I'm Catholic. I'm proud of being Catholic. I do my Catholic things in my Catholic house throughout my Catholic life. But is that enough?

All Christians are called to "wordless witness" in how they live their lives, writes Paul VI in the apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Nuntiandi* — but this alone, he says, is "insufficient." We must talk about Jesus. We must name him. We must speak of his life, his promises. We must *proclaim* him.

We must be loud enough that a Pharisee would cringe at us.

And yet — and Paul VI acknowledges this — it's not actually evangelization if we do it so badly that nobody listens. If we "impose" truth on someone's conscience instead of "proposing" it. If we make the mistake of thinking there is one singular way to share Christ with the great variety of personalities that exist in this world.

Dear reader, I am running out of column space, and still I have no answers for you, or for myself. I don't know how to do it well. But I know we have to try. We have to pray. We have to reflect. We have to be patient. We have to be humble. We have to remember it's about him and not about us.

Most of all, when we find ourselves confused and retreating into silence, we must remember Christ's words: "If they keep silent, the stones will cry out."

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?
Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Where do Palm Sunday palms come from and where should they go?

Answer:

The Palm Sunday celebration has ancient origins. Beginning the liturgy "outside" the church, we symbolically reenact Christ's entry into Jerusalem. The crowds in ancient Israel waved palm branches – a symbol of royalty – to welcome Jesus. These days, obtaining palms takes a lot of planning and coordination, as hundreds of thousands of churches worldwide need them on the same day! Many in the United States order palms from Florida, California, Texas, or Central America. Many companies stress the sustainability of their production and the just wages paid to their workers.

The palms used on Palm Sunday are blessed at Mass. This means they shouldn't end up in the trash! Many people weave palms into crosses or families display them in their homes. If you do not plan on displaying your palms throughout the year, they should be burned, buried, or left at the church. In the final case, the palms are burned to provide the ashes for next year's Ash Wednesday service.

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:
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. (Is 50:7)

Psalm:
My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? (Ps 22)

Second Reading:
Because of this, God greatly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name
which is above every name. (Phil 2:9)

Gospel:
Then he took the bread, said the blessing,
broke it, and gave it to them, saying,
"This is my body, which will be given for you;
do this in memory of me." (Lk 22:19)

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Live The Liturgy
Inspiration of the Week

The disciples followed Jesus' careful instructions for his entry to Jerusalem, even though they did not understand his words. Today, we too, look ahead to his arrival. In obedience, let us prepare the way for the King.

Observances for the week of April 13, 2025

Sunday: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Tuesday: Tax Day
Thursday: Holy Thursday
Friday: Good Friday
Saturday: Holy Saturday
Next Sunday: Easter Sunday

Devotions, *Explained!*

The Seven Churches Pilgrimage is the practice of visiting seven different churches on Holy Thursday, in imitation of the journey of Christ on the eve of his crucifixion, when he asked his disciples to stay with him as he awaited his Passion and death.

Prayer for Holy Week

Dear Lord,
I open my heart to You, offering every day and night to You in sacred surrender. I pray for the grace to accompany You in a special way this Holy Week, joining and offering the trials I encounter on our shared journey to the cross .... and to a victorious hope.
Amen.

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest."
- Lk 19:38

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

Isaiah bears witness as one who did not lose his faith despite persecution and ridicule. Can you discuss a time when your faith was put to the test?

Second Reading:

Paul teaches the Philippians that Jesus was humble and obedient to God even to the point of death by crucifixion. Why do you think humility and obedience are important virtues in following Jesus?

Gospel:

In his passion narrative, Luke is the only evangelist to highlight that both Pilate and Herod (Antipas) find Jesus innocent of the charges against him. Is there a friend or co-worker you could help this week who is being treated unfairly?

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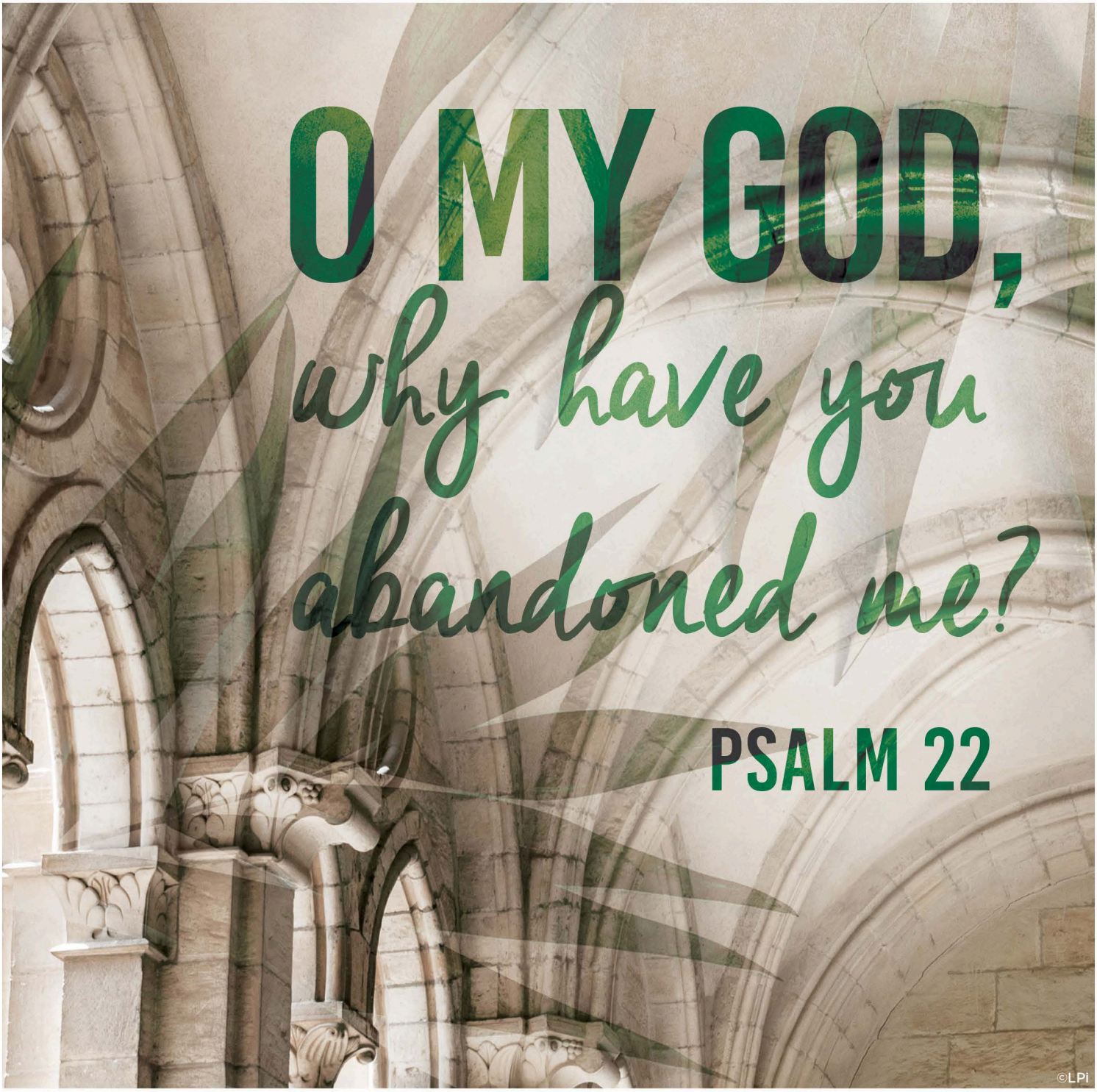

As he rode along, the people were spreading their cloaks on the road; the whole multitude of his disciples began to praise God aloud with joy for all the mighty deeds they had seen. - Lk 19:36, 37b

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