

PRAYING PASSION SUNDAY

Blessed is the One Who comes in the name of our God!

As we gather in prayer we pause and remember that we continually live, and breathe, and are, in the holy presence of our God.

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

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The great crowd that had come for the feast
heard that Jesus was to enter Jerusalem
so they got palm branches
and came out to meet Him.

They kept shouting:

“Hosanna!

Blessed is He

Who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the King of Israel!

Jesus found a donkey and mounted it,
in accordance with Scripture:

“Fear not, O daughters of Zion!

Your King approaches you

on a donkey’s colt.”

At first

the disciples did not understand all this,

but after Jesus was glorified

they recalled

that the people had done to Him precisely

what had been written about Him.

(John 12: 12-16)



Who is this Man we have come out to meet,
Riding a donkey out there on the street?
We have palms in our hands and there are robes at His feet.

This is our Savior, Lord Jesus;
Our wonderful Savior, Lord Jesus!

Why do you children shout loudly and cry,
Ringing Hosannas that reach to the sky.
As you climb to Jerusalem standing on high?
Because He is our Savior, Lord Jesus;
Our wonderful Savior, Lord Jesus!

May I come with you and help You to sing,
Join in your praises and so help them to ring?
May I bring my heart to Lord Jesus the King?
Everyone's Savior is Jesus;
Our wonderful Savior, Lord Jesus!

Will you come with us although you feel shy;
Come to His cross when it is lifted on high?
He waits for your heart, the great Lord of the sky;
Give what you can give to Jesus;
Our wonderful Savior, Lord Jesus!
(Elizabeth and John Tolson, 1999)

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Your attitude must be Christ's:
though He was in the form of God
He did not deem equality with God
something to be grasped at.
Rather, He emptied Himself
and took the form of a slave,
being born in the likeness of men and women.
He was known to be of human estate,
and it was thus that He humbled Himself,
obediently accepting even death,
death on a cross!
Because of this, God highly exalted him
and bestowed on Him the name
above every other name,
so that at Jesus' name every knee must bend
in the heavens, on the earth, and under the earth,
and every tongue proclaim to the glory of God the Father:
JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!
(Philippians 2: 6-11)

Jesus Christ came to this earth to reign here,
but not, says Saint Augustine,
as other kings do,
to raise tribute, enroll armies, and visibly do battle against their enemies.
For Jesus Christ assures us that His kingdom is not of this world,
but to establish His reign within our souls
according to what He Himself says in His holy Gospel,
that His kingdom is within us.
So that Jesus Christ may reign over your souls,
you must pay Him the tribute of all your actions.
All of them must be consecrated to Him;
in them there should be nothing that is not pleasing to Him;
they should have no other intention than to accomplish His holy will,
which should direct all of them
so that there should be nothing human in them.
Since the reign of Jesus Christ is divine,
all that has any connection with it must be divine in itself
or divinized by the relationship it has with Jesus Christ.
The main purpose He had in this world was to accomplish His Father's will,
as He declares in several passages in the Gospel.
He also wishes that you who are His members and His servants
should be united with Him
and should have this same purpose in your actions.
Examine if this is what you actually intend.

(De La Salle's Meditation for Palm Sunday)

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We are at the beginning of Holy Week. If we want truly to be a Christian, this week might be the time when we share in a special way in the passion of Christ. We do this not so much in indulging in pious feelings, but by bearing the burdens of our life with simple fortitude and without ostentation. For we share by faith in the passion of our Lord precisely by realizing that our life is a participation in His destiny. We find this difficult, because so often we fail to understand that the bitterness and burden of our own life do, or should give us a mysterious share in the destiny of all human beings...If we were aware of this we would understand that His passion is the unique acceptance of the passion of humankind, in which it is accepted, suffered, redeemed, and freed into the mystery of God.

(Karl Rahner, *The Great Church Year*)

Jesus wept for his people in their blindness; He mourned their future destruction. When His time had come He entered the city of Jerusalem.

We cry out:

Praise to You, O Christ, our Savior.

Jesus, many that you had healed and consoled would betray You;

Make us grateful for the gift of Your life and death and keep us faithful to You.

Jesus, Your kingdom is not of this world;

Help us to build here a kingdom of justice and love.

Jesus, You knew the hearts of those who hailed You as king;

Show us our true selves and make us faithful to You.

Jesus, You came as a giver of love and mercy and disdained a political crown;

Bless all leaders with integrity and wisdom.

Jesus, You received the praise of children and would not let them be silenced;

Make us pure of heart ever open to Your truth.

Jesus, You freely exchanged a political throne for the reign of love on the cross;

Give us the wisdom to know and the courage to live by the values of the Gospel.

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Jesus, our Savior and King,

You came with a message of love and forgiveness;

You offered us joy and fullness of life.

Generation after generation we have scorned Your love
and destroyed Your life among us.

Have mercy on us.

Let Your Holy Spirit overcome our weakness
that we may rise courageously to the challenge of following You.

Amen.

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Hosanna on high, Christ our Savior.

You gave Your life for us.

Hosanna on high!

Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna on high!

Saint John Baptist de La Salle

and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,

Intercede for us

that we will truly make Jesus Christ the King and Center of our hearts.

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!