



# St. Joseph Catholic Church

Harlowton, Montana

Missions:

Blessed Sacrament, Shawmut

Immaculate Conception, Judith Gap

Father Cody Williams, Pastor



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## Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

March 24, 2024

*Worldly glory is fleeting. Christ enters into Jerusalem to the tune of crowds chanting, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" Only five days later, the same crowd cries, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" How their fickleness contrasts with the constancy of Jesus, for he remains faithful, humble, "obedient to death, even death on a cross." Despite beatings, insults, and spitting, Jesus knows full well that he will "not be put to shame." United to him, neither will we. In his Passion, we find forgiveness of our sins and the strength to rise above persecution, injustice, and suffering.*

**At the Procession with Palms:** St. Mark 11:1-10 or St. John 12:12-16

*My face I did not shield from buffets and spitting, knowing that I shall not be put to shame.*

**First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7** *4The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him that is weary. Morning by morning he awakens, he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. 5The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I turned not backward. 6I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I hid not my face from shame and spitting. 7For the Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been confounded; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame;*

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24**

**R: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?** *7All who see me mock at me, they make mouths at me, they wag their heads; 8"He committed his cause to the LORD; let him deliver him, let him rescue him, for he delights in him!" 16Yea, dogs are round about me; a company of evildoers encircle me; they have pierced my hands and feet -- 17I can count all my bones -- they stare and gloat over me; 18they divide my garments among them, and for my raiment they cast lots. 19But thou, O LORD, be not far off! O thou my help, hasten to my aid! 22I will tell of thy name to my brethren; in the midst of the congregation I will praise thee: 23You who fear the LORD, praise him! all you sons of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you sons of Israel!*

*Christ humbled himself. Because of this God greatly exalted him.*

**Second Reading: Phillipians 2:6-11** *Christ Jesus 6who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. 9Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, 10that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

**Verse Before the Gospel:** *Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.*

**Gospel: The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark (14:1-15:47) 2<sup>nd</sup> option 15:1-39**

**1**And as soon as it was morning the chief priests, with the elders and scribes, and the whole council held a consultation; and they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him to Pilate. **2**And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." **3**And the chief priests accused him of many things. **4**And Pilate again asked him, "Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you." **5**But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate wondered. **6**Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. **7**And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barab'bas. **8**And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he was wont to do for them. **9**And he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" **10**For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. **11**But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barab'bas instead. **12**And Pilate again said to them, "Then what shall I do with the man whom you call the King of the Jews?" **13**And they cried out again, "Crucify him." **14**And Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him." **15**So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barab'bas; and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified. **16**And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the praetorium); and they called together the whole battalion. **17**And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and plaiting a crown of thorns they put it on him. **18**And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" **19**And they struck his head with a reed, and spat upon him, and they knelt down in homage to him. **20**And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak, and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him. **21**And they compelled a passer-by, Simon of Cyre'ne, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. **22**And they brought him to the place called Gol'gotha (which means the place of a skull). **23**And they offered him wine mingled with myrrh; but he did not take it. **24**And they crucified him, and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. **25**And it was the third hour, when they crucified him. **26**And the inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." **27**And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. **29**And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads, and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, **30**save yourself, and come down from the cross!" **31**So also the chief priests mocked him to one another with the scribes, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. **32**Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also reviled him. **33**And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. **34**And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "E'lo-i, E'lo-i, la'ma sabach-tha'ni?" which means, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" **35**And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Eli'jah." **36**And one ran and, filling a sponge full of vinegar, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Eli'jah will come to take him down." **37**And Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed his last. **38**And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. **39**And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that he thus breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

**12:00 noon Sunday Mass at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Harlowton, MT.**

**Daily Mass on Thursdays at noon at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Harlowton, MT.**

**\*\*\*Confessions before Sunday Mass beginning at 11:30 am or by appointment. Please join us to pray the rosary for our nation and community 1/2 hour before Sunday Mass.**

**Easter Mass is on Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 12:00 pm.**

**Sunday Mass at 9 am at St. Bartholomew, White Sulphur Springs & 4:30pm at Holy Cross, Townsend.**

**\*\*\*Eucharistic Adoration on Thursdays – join us anytime between 12:30–3:30 pm.**

**After Mass socials on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month 3/24/24; 4/28/24; 5/26/24**

**RE is on Thursdays. High school group is the same time & material as the Catholicism 101 series.**

## **Please pray for our seminarians:**

Riley Helgoe  
Kaleb Mitchell  
Jamie Severson  
Matt Keck  
Mark Bruschwein

Dillon Armstrong  
Bret Rotz  
Carter Anderson  
James Semling

John Cooney  
Anthony Olmes  
Shae Bills  
Lane Buus

## **Mark Your Calendars:**

During the week of 3/25, Mass will be at 12:00 pm on Tuesday, 3/26, and no Mass on Thursday. The Catholicism series (available online & in person) will also be at 6:00 pm on Tuesday and not on Thursday. Eucharistic Adoration will remain on Thursday, 3/28/24.

Please join us for the parish potluck TODAY after Mass on Sunday 3/24.

### **Easter Sunday Mass is at our normal time of noon on Sunday, 3/31.**

*Our prayer chain has moved to Flocknote. Flocknote allows us to send out messages to everyone more quickly and efficiently. If you get a message from Flocknote, it is not spam. This is the same message system I use to send out emails and texts about Mass cancellations.*

### **Help needed: Installing new smoke alarms in the parish center and RE rooms.**

**We have some items that need to go to the dump. If anyone has some time to take them to the dump, it would be greatly appreciated.**

Homebound Ministry: if know of people in Harlowton who are Catholic and homebound, please contact Fr. Cody with their names, phones numbers, and addresses. I would like to compile a list and start visiting these people and bringing them the Sacraments.

**If you are interested in being part of a small group or leading a small group, contact Fr. Cody. We have many resources at our parish that could greatly benefit your faith. I bought a series on the Reformation, we could read books and discuss them, and many more options. All we need are willing people.**

## **Father Cody's Corner: Basics of Catholicism Part 32: Holy Week**

On a hill overlooking the city of Jerusalem, Jesus began his walk into the city of Jerusalem amidst the cheers and excitement of the people. They assumed that he was coming to be their new king. He knew that he was coming to die. This event begins Holy Week and our journey with Jesus through his Passion, death, and Resurrection. Some ask the question, why do we do this, i.e. wave palm branches and process into the church? The answer is simple. Our faith is meant to be tangible. Acting out the events and seeing them come to life as part of our worship of God is important for us to engage with the events of Jesus' life and come to experience them in our own. We don't want to simply hear that Jesus has come into our lives; we need to act it out so that we know how it feels.

Palm or Passion Sunday is one of the few days of the year with a sharp contrast to its celebration. Red is the liturgical color for only two Sundays of year with Passion/Palm Sunday being one of them to emphasize Jesus' death. The joy with the palm branches is quickly shifted to the extremely long Gospel passages that tells the entire story of Jesus' death. The four parts to the Gospel reading – Jesus, the narrator, the voice, and the crowd – give us a sense of our part in the story and help the Gospel make more sense. The voices of the people shouting to the priest “Crucify him” is always unsettling. But, we need to speak those words since we are the ones who wanted him crucified, regardless of whether we want to admit it. The Church requires all priests to keep their homilies short to allow the power of the Passion account to affect us. The next three days of Holy Week focus on the events that lead up to Jesus' death. We can ask the question, what was Jesus doing between the time that he entered Jerusalem and his arrest? The answer is simple. He was anointed by Mary, he cleansed the Temple, he taught the people, he prepared for the Passover, and Judas worked to betray him. Lots happened in those few days. The days between Palm Sunday and the Mass of the Lord's Supper are marked with the feeling of waiting and anticipation. They are not inconsequential days.

During Holy Week, priests are forbidden from celebrating baptisms, marriages and funerals. Baptisms for adults and older children are highly discouraged during the Season of Lent to not distract from the Season of Easter being the season of baptism. Holy Week is a special time and therefore these liturgies are suppressed for the week. Some of the Sacraments

are allowed as needed and requested by the faithful such as Anointing of the Sick and Penance. But these Sacraments are based on request and not as a Penance Service or Anointing of the Sick Mass.

I encourage you to celebrate Holy Week well. Part of celebrating this week well is to take time away from some of the things we would normally do so that we can devote time to prayer, to pondering the week, and preparing for Easter. Walk with Jesus. Take each day and remember what happened on each day. ~ Fr. Cody

### Pop Quiz:

- **What are the three parts of the Rite of Confirmation?**
- **On Palm Sunday, the priest can wear two types of vestments. What are they called?**
- **According to the Gospels, what time of day did Jesus rise from the tomb?**

## Darkness at Noon: Scott Hahn Reflects on Passion Sunday

[Listen here](#) Readings: [Isaiah 50:4-7](#); [Psalm 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24](#); [Philippians 2:6-11](#); [Mark 14:1-15:47](#)

Crowned with thorns, our Lord is lifted up on the Cross, where He dies as “King of the Jews.” Notice how many times He is called “king” in today’s Gospel—mostly in scorn and mockery.

As we hear the long accounts of His Passion, at every turn we must remind ourselves—He suffered this cruel and unusual violence for us.

He is the Suffering Servant foretold by Isaiah in today’s First Reading. He reenacts the agony described in today’s Psalm, and even dies with the first words of that Psalm on His lips (see [Psalm 22:1](#)).

Listen carefully for the echoes of this Psalm throughout today’s Gospel—as Jesus is beaten, His hands and feet are pierced; as His enemies gamble for His clothes, wagging their heads, mocking His faith in God’s love, His faith that God will deliver Him.

Are we that much different from our Lord’s tormenters? Often, don’t we deny that He is King, refusing to obey His only commands that we love Him and one another? Don’t we render Him mock tribute, pay Him lip service with our half-hearted devotions?

In the dark noon of Calvary, the veil in Jerusalem’s temple was torn. It was a sign that by His death Jesus destroyed forever the barrier separating us from the presence of God.

He was God and yet humbled Himself to come among us, we’re reminded in today’s Epistle. And despite our repeated failures, our frailty, Jesus still humbles Himself to come to us, offering us His body and blood in the Eucharist.

His enemies never understood: His kingship isn’t of this world (see [John 18:36](#)). He wants to write His law, His rule of life on our hearts and minds.

As we enter Holy Week, let us once more resolve to give Him dominion in our lives. Let us take up the cross He gives to us—and confess with all our hearts, minds, and strength that truly this is the Son of God. ~ Dr. Scott Hahn



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