

# Session Six

## 1. Additional Biblical or Prayer Book material

The Triumphal entry into Jerusalem:

Matthew 21:1-11  
Mark 11:1-11  
Luke 19:28-40  
John 12:12-19

Often on Palm Sunday palm crosses are blessed and distributed.

The story of our salvation can be told in the making of a plan cross.

One piece of palm	There is one God.
Remove the centre stem	As you take the stem out - it reminds us that sin separates us from God.
Tie the two pieces of palm	This a deliberate act just as confessing our sins is a deliberate act.
Make the cross beam	Reminds us that Jesus died on the cross for us and for our sins.
Bring the upright section through	Jesus rose from the dead conquering for us sin and and death and opening the gate of eternal life.

The Passion Account:

During Holy Week I encourage you to read one of the Passion accounts. It is important to read the passages meditatively.

The accounts can be found in:

Matthew Chapters 26 & 27  
Mark Chapters 14 & 15  
Luke Chapters 22 & 23  
John Chapters 18 & 19

Do not rush, we are reading the Scriptures not the newspaper!

The practice of reading the Passion on Palm Sunday and Good Friday varies across churches. Some use the Mark account (Year B if you use the lectionary) on Palm Sunday and John account on Good Friday.

Let us take a more detailed look at the John's account (John 18 & 19)

Jesus is arrested (18:1-11)

Jesus had concluded praying.  
He was with his disciples and Judas betrayed him.  
What is your immediate reaction to our Lord's betrayal?  
Have you been betrayed? How did you feel?

Jesus is before Annas (18:12-14)

Jesus was tried twice, once before the Jewish authorities and by the Roman authorities.

Peter denies Jesus (18:15-18)

Have you denied the fact that you are a disciple of our Lord?

Jesus before the High Priest ((18:19-24)

Peter denies Jesus again and the cock crowed. (18:25-27)

"No, it is not I", and the cock crowed  
How do you feel when you are caught out?

Jesus is before Pilate (18:28-38)

Pilate asked that question, "What is truth?"

Jesus is sentenced to death (18:38b-19:16)

Jesus is crucified (19:16b-27)

Jesus dies (19:28-30)

Jesus' side is pierced (19:31-37)

The Burial of Jesus (19:38-42)

Joseph of Arimathea lent a grave in which to bury our Lord. We are told that Joseph was a secret follower. What stops people from coming out in public about their faith? What does this passage teach us?

Some Good Friday liturgies focus on seven utterances of our Lord from the cross. You have to read all four gospels to obtain also seven.

**1** *"Father forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34).*

**2** *"Today you shall be with me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43).*

**3** *"Behold your son! Behold your mother!" (John 19:26,27)*

**4** *"My God! My God! Why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46).*

**5** *"I am thirsty" (John 19:28).*

**6** *"It is finished!" (John 19:30).*

**7** *"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit" (Luke 23:46).*

## **2. A section on how the Church can make a difference**

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is key to our faith. The events of Good Friday and Easter mean that we can not only make a difference, but we must make a difference. How can we make this a reality?

## **3. and prompts for "have you considered"**

Jesus was denied three times. From time to time people will deny what you have said or some action you took. What were your feelings when this happened? Have you considered how you can forgive those who have denied you?

Pilate asked Jesus the question, "What is truth?" Have you ever considered how you would answer if someone asked you the question, "What is truth?"

It is Matthew 27:24, we read, "When Pilate saw that it was no use to go on, but that a riot may break out, he took some water and washed his hands and said, "I am not responsible for the death of this man! This is your doing"

Have you considered how you can make a difference in a situation rather than "washing your hands?"