**Passover Style Feast**

**Introduction**
**Welcome!**

**For the past five weeks of the Season of Lent we have been preparing...**
**preparing for this moment in the story of Jesus' journey.**

Now we are one week from Easter!

Today is what has traditionally been called 'Palm Sunday'.

This is the day on which, our tradition tells us,
Jesus entered Jerusalem to celebrate the passover, and just days before his death.

So I invite you to reflect on
some of the feelings associated with Holy Week as we settle ourselves.

**Play song ‘Be Thou My Vision’ - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihJAJA4ibEs**

Let’s imagine we have come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover.
We begin by listening again to Mark's story:
to Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, his own city,
to encourage the people to see
and experience God in new ways.

**Reading with picture slides**

Mark 11:1-11 (NRSV)

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives,
Jesus sent two disciples and said to them:
‘Go into the village ahead of you,
and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there
a colt that has never been ridden.

‘Untie it and bring it.  If anyone says to you,
‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this,
‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’

They went away and found a colt tied near a door,
outside in the street.

As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them:
‘What are you doing, untying the colt?’
They told them what Jesus had said,
and they allowed them to take it.

Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it.
And he sat on it.

Many people spread their cloaks on the road,
and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields.

Then those who went ahead
and those who followed were shouting,
‘Hosanna!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God!
Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!’

Then Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple.

And when he had looked around at everything,
as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

http://www.rexaehuntprogressive.com/liturgy\_collection/year\_b\_liturgy\_collection/year\_b\_lenteaster/palmsb2532018.html

### [Palm Sunday Call to Worship](http://carolpenner.typepad.com/leadinginworship/2012/03/palm-sunday-call-to-worship.html)

Jesus is coming!
From the mountainside, from the seaside,
from the homes of the rich
and the company of the poor,
from the bedside of those who are sick,
Jesus is coming!
Along dusty roads,
with a ragged band of travellers,
Jesus comes to Jerusalem,
Jesus comes to worship.
Will we greet him with Hosannas?

*Let’s pray:*
We have come to meet you today, Jesus.
We don’t know quite what to expect.
We think we know what we need,
how you can meet our needs.
But we come humbly, laying our coats before you.
It’s your call.
Reveal to us who you are,
how you can be a Saviour in our lives,
a Saviour in our world today.
Come Lord Jesus!

Carol Penner

Let’s look at story written from the perspective of the donkey that carried Jesus on Palm Sunday:

<https://www.lostsheep.com.au/stories/dave-the-donkey-an-easter-story/>

**Passover Meal**

Jesus came into Jerusalem that holy week to celebrate the Passover festival.

The Passover meal is a special feast shared every year by the Jewish people. It is a meal where they eat special food to remind them of the time when God rescued them from being slaves in Egypt, when God kept them safe.

Jesus and his friends where sharing this Passover meal the night before Jesus was arrested and killed. In the middle of this feast Jesus said, “now I want you to remember me when you eat this meal. When you come together to feast to all God has done for you I want you to remember me. Remember the gift of my life when you eat and my blood, my death when you drink.” Jesus knew that his life on earth, his death and his life with us now was going to save people from death, from being slaves – from being stuck in a life where there is no hope or love. Let’s share in some of that meal now.

**Washing of hands**

Let’s bring with washing our hands. We pour water over each other’s hands to refresh ourselves, to prepare for eating together.

We remember that when Jesus and his friends were sharing in the Passover meal, Jesus took off his outer clothes and washed the hands and feet of his disciples,
saying in actions as well as words:
'Remember all I have been to you'.

In that tradition let us wash the hands of our neighbours
and receive that act of service for ourselves.

Play clip of Jesus washing feet: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yRTjb4tYKZ4>

**Bitter Herbs**

I invite everyone to begin the meal by taking some parsley, dipping it into the salty water and eating it.

This is a traditional part of a Passover meal.

Why do we have to taste salty water? The salt water reminds us of the tears God’s people cried when they were slaves in Egypt long ago, being treated very badly. The salt water reminds us of those still crying and waiting to know God’s freedom.

Let’s take a moment to think of those on our hearts who are in need of love and freedom.

(Pause)

As we hold these people in our prayers we are going to read together part of Psalm 113.

This is what Jesus and his friends would have sung before the Passover meal.

**Psalm 113**

Praise the Lord!

Yes, give praise, O servants of the Lord.
Praise the name of the Lord!

**Blessed be the name of the Lord
now and forever.**

Everywhere—from east to west—
praise the name of the Lord.

For the Lord is high above the nations;
his glory is higher than the heavens.

**Blessed be the name of the Lord
now and forever.**

Who can be compared with the Lord our God,
who is enthroned on high?
He stoops to look down
on heaven and on earth.
He lifts the poor from the dust
and the needy from the garbage dump.
He sets them among princes,
even the princes of his own people!
He gives the childless woman a family,
making her a happy mother.

Praise the Lord!

**Blessed be the name of the Lord**

**now and forever.**

<https://re-worship.blogspot.com.au/2013/08/call-to-worship-litany-psalm-113.html>

**Flat Bread**

In the Jewish Passover feast, people ate flat bread, without any rising agent in it.

The bread reminds us of the way God rescued his people from slavery in Egypt. They had to leave in such a hurry that there was no time for the bread to rise.

We also remember that Jesus took the flat bread at this moment in the Passover and gave it to his friends saying, “Eat this, this is my body given for you. Do this to remember me. Let us eat the bread, remembering Jesus, here by His Spirit now.

**Juice**

Lets raise our glasses.

This grape juice reminds us of God’s blessing, when God rescued his people from Egypt and took them to a land full of good things. It also reminds us that at the Passover Meal Jesus took a cup of wine and said, ‘This is my blood, poured out for you. Do this to remember me.’ Let us hold up our glasses and drink to Jesus, to the place of good things he brings us into.

This is a feast indeed. A feast where we remember and we celebrate together that Jesus is giving us life, love, freedom and a wonderful family.

**Offering & Announcements**

**Make Palm Sunday Crosses** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dp8vADIqTD0**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dp8vADIqTD0)

**Prayer at the Start of Holy Week**

Holy God,

you have fed us all

out of your own generous and gracious hands.

From them, we have received welcome,

nourishment, hope, and consolation.

May these things grow in us,

alongside the gift of faith,

so that we may plant their seeds

in the world around us.

Through the Holy Spirit,

guide us in the week [days] ahead

to re-member our place

in your great and on-going story

of resurrection, redemption, and restoration

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

~ written by lutheranjulia, and posted on RevGalBlogPals.<http://revgalblogpals.org/2016/03/18/friday-prayer-something-is-coming/>