

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion – March 29, 2026



From noon onward, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "This one is calling for Elijah." Immediately one of them ran to get a sponge; he soaked it in wine, and putting it on a reed, gave it to him to drink. But the rest said, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to save him." But Jesus cried out again in a loud

voice, and gave up his spirit. And behold, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth quaked, rocks were split, tombs were opened, and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised. And coming forth from their tombs after his resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many. The centurion and the men with him who were keeping watch over Jesus feared greatly when they saw the earthquake and all that was happening, and they said, "Truly, this was the Son of God!"

- Matthew 26:14-27: 66

In Accordance with the Scriptures

The biblical accounts of the events leading up to, and including, the death of Jesus are rich in references to the Hebrew Scriptures. Like the infancy narratives, the accounts of the passion and death of Jesus either quote directly or echo the Old Testament in almost every verse. This final week of Lent is a good time to reflect on the Christian use of the Jewish Scriptures to interpret the actions and passion of Jesus.

Over the years, it has gradually come home to me that there are two misguided ways to interpret Old Testament allusions and citations in the New Testament. *The first wrong way* is simply to take an Old Testament reference as a claim that a prediction came true. This bald prediction/fulfillment approach reduces the meaning of the reference to this simple thought: the Old Testament says such and such, and look, it happened in Jesus' life. Granting that this was often the way those references were treated in the apologetics of another age, such a way of thinking rarely does justice to the implied intentions of the biblical authors, and these intentions vary according to context.

The other misguided way of interpreting the New Testament references to the Hebrew Scriptures is the hypothesis of some skeptical biblical critics who assume the details of the passion were simply invented by authors using the Old Testament as their source. This hardly makes sense as the practice of people proclaiming Good News.

What, then, is the best way to understand the New Testament references to the Old Testament? It is to take those references one by one, looking in each case for the way in which the older text is used to interpret the meaning of the life and person of Jesus. This Sunday's readings provide a number of fascinating examples. Let's consider two of them.

1. [Zech 9:9](#) at [Matt 21:5](#)

Behold, your king comes to you,
meek and riding on an ass,
and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.
Mark and Luke tell of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem without quoting this explanatory verse from the prophet Zechariah. All of the Synoptic Gospels are clear that –

Cont... Jesus' choice of the donkey as his mount for entering Jerusalem was quite deliberate. The move is so carefully prearranged that one suspects that it is some kind of prophetic symbolic action—like the table fellowship with outcasts or the sharing of the cup of blessing. Matthew makes the meaning of the choice evident by citing Zechariah 9:9, which is part of a portrait of a future king who rides a donkey instead of a war horse, a peacemaking king who bans the bow and the chariot. (The [Fourth Gospel](#) will clarify the meaning even further, not only by quoting the prophet but also by showing Jesus choosing to ride the donkey in response to the palm-waving of the crowds.) Notice that the citation of Zechariah is more than a matter of highlighting a fulfilled prediction; it explains the meaning of action.

2. [Wis 2:16-18](#) at [Mt 27:43](#). To Mark's description of the passers-by and the chief priests and scribes taunting the crucified Jesus to save himself and come down from the cross, Matthew adds some words. "Let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him," say the passers-by. And the Temple officials add the barb,

He trusted in God; let him deliver him now if he wants him. For he said, I am the Son of God.

This Matthean addition is a paraphrase of Wisdom [2:17-18](#), whose context is a description of a group of wicked men who think that might makes right ([Wis 2:11](#)) ganging up on a just man and speaking cynically among themselves:

He boasts that God is his Father.
Let us see whether his words are true. ...
For if the just one be the son of God,
he will defend him and deliver him from the hand of his foes. ... ([Wis 2:16-18](#))

This allusion to the Old Testament is clearly not a matter of prediction and fulfillment. For the author of Wisdom, it is a perennial scenario. As applied to Jesus, the reference is a reflection on the meaning of the drama that Jesus plays out, for the Wisdom passage also comments on the delusion of the abusers of the just man:

These were their thoughts, but they erred;
for their wickedness blinded them,
And they knew not the hidden counsels God,
neither did they count on a recompense of holiness,
nor discern the innocent souls reward. ([Wis 2:21-22](#)).

Thus Matthew enlists the Wisdom text not as prediction but as illumination. These examples are just a taste of the wealth of meaning that lies behind the echoes of Scripture in the passion account. -Dennis Hamm S.J.

Readings For Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Processional: Matthew 21:1-11

Reading I: Isaiah 50:4-7

Reading II: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27: 66

Readings For Resurrection of the Lord

Reading 1: Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Reading II: Colossians 3:1-4

Sequence: Vicimae paschali laudes

Gospel: John 20:1-9

Eureka Holy Mass Schedule

Saturday, March 28

3:15 Confession St. Joseph Church
4:00 pm +Dianne Luzzi St. Joseph Church

Sunday, March 29 Palm Sunday of the Lord's

Passion

7:30 am Mass for the People St. Joseph Church
9:00 am +Alfredo Luzame Sacred Heart Church
10:30am +Paul Windham St. Bernard Church
12:15 pm(Sp)+Raul & Isolina Olea Sacred Heart Church

Monday, March 30

12:15 pm +Rebecca Bertain St. Bernard Church

Tuesday, March 31

7:30 am Souls in Purgatory St. Joseph Church

Wednesday, April 1

12:15 pm +Heath Yentes St. Bernard Church
6:00 pm Adoration Sacred Heart Church
7:00pm No Intention Sacred Heart Church

Holy Thursday, April 2

5:30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper St. Bernard Church
*Followed by 1 hr. Adoration of Blessed Sacrament St. B.
7:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper (Bilingual) S.H.
*Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until
midnight Sacred Heart Church

Good Friday, April 3

12:15 pm Stations of the Cross + Chad Kryla St. Bernard
*Followed by Liturgy of the Lord's Passion St. Bernard
2:30 pm Stations of the Cross Sacred Heart Church
*Followed by Liturgy of the Lord's Passion Sacred Heart
5:00 pm Stations of the Cross (Sp) Sacred Heart Church
*Followed by Liturgy of the Lord's Passion(Spanish) S.H.

Holy Saturday, April 4

8:00 am Morning Liturgy of the Hours St. Bernard Ch.
8:00 pm Easter Vigil St. Bernard Church
10:00pm Easter Vigil (Spanish) Sacred Heart Church

Easter Sunday, April 5 Resurrection of the Lord

7:30 am Souls in Purgatory St. Joseph Church
9:00 am No Intention Sacred Heart Church
10:30am Mass for the People St. Bernard Church
12:15 pm(Sp)+Eloy y +Suanna Mendez Sacred Heart

Please Pray For: Rosemary Murphy, Eliana Ome y, Pat Rider, Duane David, Thanh Strelow, Sally-Ann Thomas, Chaz Desoteau, Nagee Ellis, Theresa Martin, Jackeline Williams, Diane Kerr, Karla Kincade, Tammie Startare, Lynn Agajanian, Gary Agajanian, Linda Brown, Eliot Cabreon, Michael Arnold, Hatsue Riecke
Please Pray For Our Beloved Departed:

+Diane Shaddix +Colleen Cruz +Joe Thompson +Gina Costa +Stella Reyes +Mary Walsh+Rolly Luzame +Brenda Zwiefelhofer + Louise Y. Russo, +Bernadette Chapman +Saturnina Tetrault, +Marie Giampaolo, +Tony Sistrom, +Marilyn Zibilich, +Diacono Frank Weber +Felipe de Jesus Silva Rodriguez +My-Hieu Venema +Avira Agata Concepta Gomes +Colby Arnett +Lorraine Cooney, +Chris Scott, +Sharon Ome y, +Jim Cruz, +Deacon Jim Hercher, +Susan Bonomini

FINANCE

1st Collection= \$2,531

This week's 2nd Collection = Betty Chinn /SV

AMA 2026 Goal=\$34,900 Pledges=\$4,945

Rec'd=\$3,435



- Upcoming Events -

St. Bernard's Phone Prayer Line

For those who are interested in joining the prayer chain or anyone with a prayer request, please call Alan / Illeen at (707) 442-6844. "Prayer is an act of love, words are not needed. Even if sickness distracts from thoughts, all that is needed is the will to love." ~ St. Teresa of Avila

You may place your rosary counts in the collection baskets. Report: 12,120! Rosaries prayed last week =54 Cumulative= 12,120

Please pray the rosary in community on Wednesdays and First Fridays at St. Bernard and/or at home with the family.

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA starts on Good Friday. Find a novena pamphlet in the vestibule.

FR. O'HARA FAREWELL MASS AND POTLUCK, On April 8th, Wednesday, at Church of the Assumption there will be Mass at 5:30pm followed by a Potluck. Please come to wish beloved Fr. O'Hara farewell and to pray for his new mission.

NIGHT OF PEACE An Evening with Sarah Hart and Francesca Larosa

On Sunday, May 3, 2026 at 4pm at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, 4595 Synder Lane, Rohnert Park there will be a concert of Christian music, songs and stories to bring peace and hope to your community. Carpooling is desired. Ticket price: \$30. A credit card processing fee will be added. Thank you to our sponsors: Marriage and Family Life, SES Ministries, Women's Guild, Socials, Filipino-American Society and Faith Formation. If you have questions or would like to sponsor the event, please email: sesreled@gmail.com or call 707-888-9672

The Pregnancy Care Center offers compassion, direction, and hope to those facing life decisions. All services are FREE and CONFIDENTIAL. 24/7 Option line: 800-712-4357 Open Mon, Tues, Th, Fri 10-3 707-442-2345

*Pregnancy testing

*Prenatal education

*Maternity and baby education & clothing

*Community referrals

*Equipment and supplies

*Ongoing support

*Childbirth education

*Healthy relationships

*Parenting education

*Prenatal vitamins

J Rolphe- Free Ultrasounds, Help and Support

J ROPHE MEDICAL provides no-cost limited obstetrical ultrasounds to patients between 7-16 weeks pregnant in a confidential and professional setting, where each client is treated holistically with the utmost care and respect. All services are free. Open from 10 to 4 Mon--Thurs, Call 707-444-0423 for an appt.