

✦ Jesus rode into Jerusalem and was welcomed as a king by the people, who spread palm branches on the road. On Palm Sunday, we carry blessed palms to remember Jesus' ride into Jerusalem and to proclaim him as king of heaven. Most Jewish people thought that the Messiah would free them from Roman rule, but Jesus' victory would be over sin and death.

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✦ At a Passover meal, the Israelites celebrated God freeing them from slavery. Jesus shared a Passover meal with his Apostles the night before he died. Lamb's blood was used to signal death to pass over the homes of the Israelites in Egypt. In Jesus' time, a lamb was offered as a sacrifice on Passover. At his last meal, Jesus made a new covenant with God and gave us a new commandment. He offered himself as the lamb that saves us from sin and death.

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✦ In the Sacrifice of the Mass, we celebrate the new covenant. It is also our covenant meal celebrated and shared by God's holy people.

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✦ Jesus was fully human. He went to pray in the garden of Gethsemane with Peter, James, and John. Like all people, he did not want to suffer or die. But he said to his Father that he would do his Father's will. While Jesus prayed alone, his Apostles fell asleep. Jesus was disappointed.

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✦ The Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, questioned Jesus. Pilate knew that Jesus was not guilty of any crime. But the people had turned against Jesus and demanded that he be crucified.

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✦ Jesus suffered and will share his glory with those who share his Cross. We know that our sufferings can lead to eternal happiness with God.

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