

God's Story, Our Story

Lesson 23: The Paschal Mystery



"Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" (Lk 24:26)

Mt 21:9, Zech 9:9

Ps 118:22-23; Is 28:16

CCC 577, 578, 580, 581;
Mt 5:17-19,

Mt 21:12-13, 24:1-2
CCC 586

Mt 22:35-40
CCC 587, 590

CCC 610-611; Mt 26:26-28;
Jer 31:31-34

CCC 612; Ps 118:22-23;
Is 28:16

Mt 26:47-68; Is 53:7;
CCC 595-598

Mt 26:69 – 27:26

Is 50:6; Is 53:7; Zech 12:10;
Mt 27:28-30; Jn 19:17-24

Jn 19:26-27

Lk 23:46; Mt 27:51

CCC 613

Is 53:8; CCC 624

CCC 630; Mt 27:59-60

1. Jesus enters into Jerusalem riding on a donkey.
2. From the beginning of Jesus' ministry, some sought to kill him, as He seemed to be acting contrary to Jewish law:
 - a. Submission to the law of Moses/interpretation of oral tradition: Jesus did not come to abolish the Torah but to fulfill it. He kept the Torah perfectly and took upon himself the "curse of the law."
 - b. Centrality of the Temple in Jerusalem as God's dwelling place: Jesus had the deepest respect for the Temple, but announced that it would be destroyed and that His body was the New Temple.
 - c. Faith in one God, in whose glory no man can share: Jesus prayed the "Sh'ma" but also made claims to divinity by forgiving sins.
3. At the Last Supper, Jesus foretold the free giving of his life; the Eucharist is the memorial of his sacrifice, and his apostles were instituted as priests of the *New Covenant*.
4. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus accepts the cup from the Father, "obedient unto death." His death is redemptive.
5. Jesus is betrayed by Judas and tried before the Sanhedrin. Jews are not collectively responsible for Jesus' death. All sinners are authors of Christ's Passion.
6. Peter denies Jesus three times. Jesus appears before Pilate. The people ask for Barabbas to be released instead of Jesus
7. In fulfillment of the Scriptures, Jesus suffers and is crucified. The soldiers cast lots for his garments.
8. Jesus gives John to Mary and Mary to John as Mother and son.
9. Jesus cries out to God, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken me?", and delivers his spirit to the Father, dying on the cross. The Temple curtain is torn in two; the earth quaked; the rocks were split.
10. Christ's death is the Paschal Sacrifice redeeming man, and the sacrifice of the New Covenant, reconciling man to God through the blood of the covenant.
11. Jesus truly died; he experienced the separation of his soul from his body, for everyone.
12. During Christ's entombment, his divine person assumed both his body and soul, though they were separated by death. Therefore,

<p><i>1 Pet 3:18-19;</i> CCC 632-33</p> <p><i>Ps 16:10; Lk 24:5;</i> CCC 638-642</p> <p><i>Lk 24:13-32</i></p> <p><i>Jn 20:27; CCC 645-646</i></p> <p>CCC 647</p> <p><i>Jn 21:1-23; Mt 28:18-20</i></p> <p><i>Lk 24:51; Acts 1:9;</i> CCC 659</p> <p><i>Dan 7:14</i></p> <p>CCC 662, 667, 1067</p>	<p>his body “saw no corruption.”</p> <p>13. Jesus descended into Hell, opening the gates of Heaven to those imprisoned there.</p> <p>14. On the third day, the tomb is found empty and the stone rolled away; two angels announce to the women: He is risen!</p> <p>15. Jesus appears to two disciples on the road to Emmaus, interpreting the Scriptures concerning himself.</p> <p>16. Jesus appears again to his disciples. He is not a ghost; his disciples touch him, and he eats. His body is glorified, not limited by space and time, but able to be present how and when he wills.</p> <p>17. The Resurrection is a historical event, but transcends and surpasses history.</p> <p>18. Jesus appears again to the disciples by the Sea of Galilee, and also gives the Great Commission to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe his commandments.</p> <p>19. Jesus remains on earth veiled under the appearance of ordinary humanity for 40 days, and then ascends into Heaven and returns to the Father. This is the irreversible entry of Christ’s humanity into divine glory.</p> <p>20. Jesus is the High Priest of the New and Eternal Covenant. He intercedes for us at the right hand of the Father (signifying the inauguration of the Messiah’s kingdom), and assures us the permanent outpouring of the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>21. Jesus us the principal actor of the heavenly liturgy that honors the Father in heaven, and we participate in the paschal mystery through the Church’s liturgy.</p>
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Questions for Discussion

1. How is the Passion the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy? What parts are foretold?
2. How did Jesus fulfill and keep, but not abolish, Jewish law?
3. Why did the Jewish authorities seek to kill him? Are Jews throughout history till our day responsible for Jesus’ death?
4. How is the New Covenant an extension of the Old Covenant? Why was it necessary for Jesus to make a new covenant, as prophesied in Jer 31:31-34?
5. Why is the scene with Mary and John included in the Bible? How is it significant?
6. Why did Jesus descend into Hell?
7. How does the Church carry on the Great Commission today?