



The Events of the Great Thursday **Code: 9/FE/2**

1. General Aims of the unit

To understand the holy events of the Passion week to live and share with all the believers in the great sacrifice of Jesus Christ our Passover

2. Special aims of the lesson

1. To summarize the events of the Passion week.

2. To study in depth the main events of Great Thursday as it is mentioned in the 4 gospels and their spiritual and theological significance in our Spiritual life;
 - preparing the Passover and eating it
 - washing the feet
 - the last supper,
 - the last speech and (notice that this part is the lesson of Yr. 11)
 - the intercession prayer. (notice that this part is the lesson of Yr. 12)

3. To live in the great traditions and rites of the church in this day (Pascha, raising incense, a song to rebuke Judas, washing the feet Liturgy and a special Eucharist liturgy) .

3. Outcomes:

By the end of this lessons the teens are able to:

1. Recite the main events of each day of the Passion week
2. Explain the meaning of the traditions of the church in this week.
3. Interrelate the washing of the feet , Baptism , repentance and serving the Lord.
4. Differentiate between the Passover meal and the Eucharist.
5. Remember by heart the wording of the Lord on the bread and wine from the 3 gospels and relate it to John 6 and 1 Corinthians 11.
6. Share in the Passion week daily with all the heart and feelings

4. Verses :

Matt. 26:26-30 , Mark 14:22-26 , Luke 22:19-20 , John 6:50-51 , 53-58 ; 13: 4-5 , 10 , 13-18
1Cor. 11;23-30

5.References :

The rites of the Passion week: St. Yustos Publications
Attached "Introduction to Palm Sunday Lessons for Teens
Any commentary of St. John Gospel

Introduction to Palm Sunday Lessons for Teens

INTRODUCTION

- ❖ These lessons are dedicated to the last week of our Lord Jesus Christ on earth before His Resurrection. It starts with His triumph entry to Jerusalem and ends with completing His mission on earth as He completed our salvation on the cross and opened the paradise to the human race through His blood. This week is the core of the life of our Saviour on earth.
- ❖ Listed below are the lessons for the 6 grade from yr. 7 to yr. 12.

1. The Triumph entry to Jerusalem	Year 7	7/FE 3
2. The Passion week (Monday and Wednesday)	Year 8	8/FE 2
3. The Passion week (The events of great Tuesday)	Year 9	9/FE /2
4. The Passion week (The events of Good Friday)	Year 10	10/FE1
5. The Passion week (The Last speech of the Lord)	Year 11	11/FE1
6. The Passion week (The intercession prayer of the Lord)	Year 12	12/FE 2
- ❖ The main target of these lessons is to encourage the teens to live in this glorious week, participate in it and share in its fruits by equipping him/her with all the necessary biblical, traditional, spiritual knowledge and experience.
- ❖ It is suggested that the level of delivery of these lessons must be suitable to the level of growth of the teens. If the servant notices that the group missed some of the lessons of previous stages, then the missed parts must be covered first.
- ❖ An overview of the whole week must be explored first to be sure that the whole picture of the events of the week is crystal clear to everyone.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE EVENTS OF THE WEEK

1. Lazarus Saturday

- ❖ On that day Jesus was invited to the party of the Lazarus family at Bethany(John 12:1-11) . The family wanted to express its gratitude to the great mercy which the Lord had shown to them by raising Lazarus from the dead (John 11:1-44) .
- ❖ Our Lord Jesus Christ has an intimate relation with this blessed family. Whenever he visited this village he lodged there (Luke10:38-42).
- ❖ Mary, Lazarus sister, poured a very costly perfume on the feet of the Lord and wiped them with her hair as a sign of great appreciation , love and submission. The Lord highly

considered this gift and counted it as Mary's share in His burial (John 12:7). He also, appreciated this love and highlighted for everlasting remembrance .

- ❖ Martha used her talents to serve in the party (Luke 10:40 , John 12:2)
- ❖ Judas was inflamed with envy and anger for the wasted perfume . Mainly he was looking for his own benefit as he was carrying the money box of the disciples and he was a thief (John 12:6)
- ❖ So, the Church celebrates the raising up of Lazarus by a holy Liturgy of Eucharist on this day.

2. Palm Sunday

- ❖ Next day, the people were very excited about the great miracle , so they received Him with palm branches in their hands and joyful tunes in their mouths "Hosanna" (hosanna means save now) . He entered Jerusalem (the capital of His kingdom) in a very humble way riding on a donkey and a colt of a donkey. (Matthew 21:4-17 ; Mark 11:1-11 ; Luke 19: 28-40 ; John 12:12-19 - Zechariah9:9)
- ❖ The children were so happy , joyous , and noisy that the priests ,Pharisees , and Scribes were upset and angry .
- ❖ Jesus wept on Jerusalem as He is able to see the complete destruction of the city by the Romans (~ 70AD) and the misery of its population. The destruction was a reward for its rejection to the Saviour (Luke 19:41-44)
- ❖ As Jesus entered His house (the temple) , He was so upset about the change of the identity of the house . So , He kicked out all those who bought and sold and overturned the tables of the money changers and cleaned His house .(Matthew 21:10-17 ; Mark 11:11,15-17 ; Luke 19:45-36 , John 2:3-17) [Notice that Saint Mark indicates that the cleaning of the temple happened on Monday . So may be our Lord cleaned the temple on Sunday , but as He returned back on Monday He found the same merchandise , so He cleaned it again. Saint John records the cleaning of the temple in the first visit of our Lord to the temple in the beginning of the mission (John 2:3-17). So either the cleaning happened at the beginning and the end of the mission of the Lord to indicate the keenness of our Lord about the cleanness of His house, or Saint John shifted the event to highlight the fact that the Lord would start his mission with cleaning.]
- ❖ Some Greeks (Gentiles attracted to Judaism , either God-fearing or full proselytes) asked Phillip to see Jesus (John 12:20-50) , but the Lord directs the attention of His disciples to His death and glorification . He warns His disciples that the light (Jesus) will be little while with them.
- ❖ Our Lord left to Bethany with His disciples and rested there.

- ❖ The church celebrates this occasion in a special tune called “**SHANENE**” . A procession in the church with the palm branches and readings from the gospels before the icons and the main sanctuary to indicate that all these saints are sharing in the triumphant entry of the Lord to Jerusalem. The celebration of the feast ends by the ending of the Liturgy of Eucharist . A special prayer followed “funeral prayers” ended by sprinkling water as a substituted of funeral prayers for the believers who would departed during the “Passion week” .

3. Monday

- ❖ The Lord went to Jerusalem in the morning to teach in the temple, heal the sick and perform miracles. He returned back to Bethany at night.
- ❖ On His way to Jerusalem in the morning , He was hungry , He noticed a fig tree with plenty of leaves. When He approached to get fruits , He find it fruitless , so He cursed it and immediately it started to withered. (Matthew 21:18-22 ; Mark 11:12-14 , 20-24). When His disciples wondered , He talk to them about the power of Faith.

4. Tuesday

- ❖ Jesus passed by the fig tree which He cursed yesterday , and it was completely withered.(Matthew 21:20-22 Mark 11:20-26)
- ❖ In the temple , Jesus answered a lot of questions from the leaders and talk to the people in many parables . He questioned also the leaders about many things
- ❖ They asked Him about ;
 1. Who give him the authority to teach and perform miracles (Mathew 21:23-27 , Mark 11:27-33 ; Luke 20:1-7)
 2. The legality to give taxes to Caesar (the invaders) (Matthew 22:15-22 ; Mark 12:13-17 ; Luke 22:20-26)
 3. The resurrection from the dead (Matthew 22:23-33 ; Mark 12:18-27 ; Luke 22:27-40)
 4. The greatest commandment (Matthew 22:34-40 ; Mark 12:28-34)
- ❖ The Lord talks to the people in these parables
 1. The Parable of the two sons (Mathew 21:28-32)
 2. The Parable of the wicked vineyard dressers (Matthew 21:33-45 ; Mark 12:1-12 ; Luke 20:9-19)
 3. The Parable of the wedding feast (Matthew 22:1-14)
 4. The Parable of the wise and foolish Virgins (Matthew 25:1-13)
 5. The Parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30)
- ❖ Jesus questioned the leaders about how David call his descendent Lord. (Matthew 22:41-46 ; Mark 12:35-37 ; Luke 20:41-44)

- ❖ Jesus comments on the 2 mites of the widow (Mark 12:41-44 ; Luke 21:1-4)
- ❖ The woe to the Scribes and Pharisees (Matthew 23:1-39 ; Mark 12:38-40 ; Luke 20:45-47)
- ❖ Jesus predicts the destruction of the temple and the signs of the end of the world (Matthew 24:1-31 ; Mark 13:1-33 ; Luke 21:5-36)
- ❖ Jesus foretells about His next coming and judgment of the world (Matthew 25:31-46)
- ❖ Jesus predicts the time of His crucifixion (Matthew 26:1-2)

5. Wednesday

- ❖ Jesus spent the whole day at Bethany with His disciples .
- ❖ In the house of Simon the leper , a woman poured a very costly fragrant oil on His head (Matthew 26:6-13 ; Mark 14:3-9)
- ❖ Judas Iscariot contract to betray Him (Matthew 26:14-16 ; Mark 14:10-11 ; Luke 22:3-6)

6. Covenant Thursday

- ❖ The Lord went with His disciples to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover according to the traditions. He asked Peter and John to prepare the Passover meal (Matthew 26:17-19 ; Mark 14:12-16 ; Luke 22:7-13)
- ❖ He ate with His disciples the Passover meal which is the first meal and the first cup
- ❖ During the meal He washed their feet (John 13:1-20)
- ❖ Then He pointed to the betrayal (Matthew 26:20-25 ; Mark 14:17-21 ; Luke 22:21-23; John 13:21-32)
- ❖ The Lord instituted the Lord's supper and gave His disciples the His Body and Blood.(the second meal and the second cup) (Matthew 26:26-29 ; Mark 14:22-25 ; Luke 22: 17-20) [John mentioned the teaching of the Lord about the Body and Blood in John 6: 32-65]
- ❖ Jesus warned them about further destructions and the betrayal of Peter (Matthew 26:31-35 ; Mark 14:27-31 ; Luke 22: 31-38 ; John 13:33-38)
- ❖ The Last speech of the Lord to His disciples (John 14:1 – 16:33)
- ❖ The Lord's intercession prayer (John 17:1-26)
- ❖ The grief in Gethsemane The Lord asked the disciples to watch and pray more than one time , but they slept. He was in great agony and His sweat became like droplets of blood. An

angle appeared to our Lord to strengthen Him. (Matthew 26:36-46 ; Mark 14:32-42 ; Luke 22: 39-46 ; John 18:1)

7. Good Friday

- ❖ Betrayal of Judas and arrest of Jesus in the garden. Judas led
the troops and officers to the garden and tried to identify Jesus by kissing Him .When Jesus faced the troops and said that He is Jesus of Nazareth they drew back and fall to the ground . He agreed to surrender Himself to them if they set free His disciples. Peter used his sword and cut the ear of Malchus but the Lord healed it. (Matthew 26:47-56 ; Mark 14:43-51 ; Luke 22: 47-53 ; John 18:2-11)

- ❖ First trial before Annas [the father- in –law of the high priest Caiaphas] Jesus was
struck by the palm of one officer (John 18:12-14 ,
19-23)

- ❖ Second trail by Caiaphas and the council of Sanhedrin For
the whole night the high priest questioned Jesus to find any suitable charge against Him. He failed regardless of using false witnesses. Jesus was completely silent , but when the high priest asked Him if He is the Son of God, Jesus answered and said “you said that I AM”. This was enough to accuse Him with blasphemy and condemned Him to death. During the whole night Jesus suffered all types of insults , mockery and humiliation .
(Matthew 26:57-67 ; Mark 14:53-65 ; Luke 22: 54 , 63-65 ; John 18:24)

- ❖ Peter triple denial Peter
denied the Lord three times :
 1. Before a servant Girl
 2. Before another girl (denied with oath)
 3. Some of the servants with whom he was sittingBut he remembered the words of the Lord when He looked at him and when the cock crows .
(Matthew 26:58 , 69-75; Mark 14:66-72 ; Luke 22: 54 -62 ; John 18:15-18 , 25-27)

- ❖ Condemnation by the council of Sanhedrin Early in the
morning took their decision that He must be killed(According to the Jewish law any trail must be done in the day light as a sign of justice) . (Matthew 27:1; Mark 15:1 ; Luke 22:
66-71)

- ❖ Judas committed suicide He
returned the money and hanged himself (Matthew 27:3-
10 , Acts 1:16-20))

- ❖ Third trial before Pilot. Pilot tried
Jesus and found no fault in Him. So, he sent Him to Herod the governor of Galilee
(Matthew 27:2 , 11-14 ; Mark 15:1-5 ; Luke 23:1-7 ; John 18:28-38)

- ❖ Forth trial before Herod Jesus did not
respond to any of the words of this impudent governor . And accordingly they treated Jesus
with contempt and mocked Him , arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe and sent Him back to
Pilot. (Luke 23:6-12)

- ❖ Fifth trial before Pilot Although Pilot
found no fault in Jesus and his wife sent him warning him not to condemn this right man
Jesus , yet he was not able to stand against the strong will of the priests and the Jewish mob
. He washed his hands from the blood of Jesus , but the Jewish nation accepted to carry the
burden of this pure blood . He freed for them Barabbas and condemned Jesus to be
crucified (Matthew 27: 15-26 ; Mark 15:6-15 ; Luke 23:13-25
; John 18:39 –19:16)

- ❖ Mockery by the Roman soldiers They
scourged Him , crowned His Holy head with a twisted crown of thorns , dressed Him in a
purple robe and struck Him on the head with a reed and with their hands and spat on him
(Matthew 27: 26-31 ; Mark 15:16-19 ; John 19:1-5)

- ❖ The way to Golgotha They compelled
Simon to bear the cross behind Jesus , women lamented Him but Jesus told them to weep
on themselves and their children (Matthew 27: 32-34 ; Mark 15:20-23
; Luke 23:26-33 ; John 19:16-17)

- ❖ The events of the crucifixion period
 - a) They offered Him wine mingled with myrrh to drink as a sort of decreasing His sufferings
but He refused

 - b) They crucified Him about the third hour between two thieves

 - c) The soldiers divided His garments among them casting lots .

 - d) They put inscription over Him in Greek , Latin and Hebrews “THIS IS THE
KING OF JEWS”

 - e) Every one passing by was sneering Him.

 - f) One of the thieves (the right according to the church traditions) said to Him “remember
me when You come in Your kingdom”

 - g) The Lord said these seven words on the cross:
 - 1.Father forgive them ,for they do not know what do.
 2. to John “this is your mother” and to Saint Mary “this your son”
 3. to the thief “today you will be with Me in My kingdom”
 4. “Eli , Eli , why You forsaken me”
 5. “I am thirst”

6. "It is completed"

7. "Father into Your hands I commend my Spirit"

h) There was darkness on the whole earth from the sixth hour to the ninth hour

i) The veil of the temple torn from top to bottom, the earth quaked, the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints raised up from the dead

k) The soldiers broke the legs of the two thieves to die quickly, but our Lord was already dead, so instead one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear and immediately blood and water came out to indicate that the body is alive. The human soul of Jesus is separated from His body yet the Divinity did not depart from His human soul or body.

m) When the Centurion saw what happened, he glorified God saying "truly this man was the Son of God"

(Matthew 27: 35-56 ; Mark 15:24- 41 ; Luke 23:33-49 ; John 19:18-37)

- ❖ Events of burial Joseph went to Pilot and asked for the body of Jesus and he was permitted. He and Nicodemus took the body and bound it in strips of linen with spices. They laid it in a new tomb and rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb. The Maries were watching where He was buried. (Matthew 27: 57-61 ; Mark 15:42-47 ; Luke 23:50-54 ; John 19:38-42)

7. Joyous Saturday

- ❖ The body of the Lord was in the tomb, but His soul went and preached to all the souls who were captured in Hades, freed them and took them with the right thief to paradise (1 Peter 3:19)
- ❖ The high priest and Pharisees asked Pilot to seal and guard the tomb to be sure that the Lord's body will not disappear. (Matthew 27:62-66)

HOW THE CHURCH CELEBRATES THE PASSION WEEK

- ❖ The church in this week is completely occupied by her Bridegroom Jesus Christ and His sacrifice. She follows Him step by step as He fills all her feelings, intentions and time.
- ❖ The psalm prayers (which represent prophecies about the whole life of our Lord) are replaced by the song of "To You is the power,....." which is the song of the angels in heaven to God and the Lamb (Revelation 4:11 ; 5:13). It is mentioned that this song was the song of the angel who appeared to Jesus in Gethsemane.
- ❖ Black signs cover the church to indicate our feelings towards the sin which cost our Lord Jesus Christ all His sufferings and crucifixion.

- ❖ The church prays outside the Sanctuary because Jesus was suffering outside the camp (Hebrews 13:13) .
- ❖ Exchange of kisses is stopped in the church from Wednesday till the end of Friday to remember the deceptive kiss of Judah.
- ❖ The Liturgy of Eucharist is stopped from Monday to Wednesday
- ❖ Originally the believers spent the whole week in the church praising and praying. But when this became not practical due to the changes in the society and the work commitments . The church in the 11th. century (Pope Gabriel Ebn Terik) divided the day into two segments day segment and night segment .each consists of 5 hours.
- ❖ Each hour of the Pascha prayers consists of :
 - ❖ Prophecies from the OT to match the events of the hour [the prophecies of the morning segments are longer in number and more than that of the night segment because the believers are fasting in the mornings.]
 - ❖ “ To You is the power ,.....” repeated 12 times [my Good Saviour is added from the 11th. Hour Tuesday as the Lord indicated the time of His crucifixion . “my strength and my praise is the Lord”is added from the eve of Good Friday]
 - ❖ The Psalm is sung in a special tune (Adrebi)
 - ❖ The gospel is sung in the sad tune.
 - ❖ The commentary (Tarh) which explain the gospel. It is preceded and followed by the responses in a special tune.
- ❖ Each of the morning and evening segments ends with the assigned litanies , then the hymn of “O King of peace” and the conclusion prayer.
- ❖ On covenant Thursday the morning prayer consists of :
 - ❖ The first hour of the morning Pascha
 - ❖ Morning raising incense (includes a procession from left to right to remember the betrayal of Judas the breaker of law)
 - ❖ Continue the hours of the morning Pascha
 - ❖ The liturgy of water (to commemorate the washing of the disciples’ feet)
 - ❖ The Liturgy of Eucharist (to commemorate the last supper of the Lord with His disciples. The following parts are not prayed in this Liturgy :
 - Agbia prayers during offering the oblations
 - Alleluia this is the day , Sotis Amen(as the salvation is not completed yet.)
 - The intercessions of the Saints

- Catholic epistle , Praxis , Synxarium
 - The prayers of conciliation , commemoration of Saints , Psalm 150
- ❖ From Good Friday eve four gospels are read every hour of the Pascha.
- ❖ Good Friday consists of six hours ; first , third , six , ninth , eleventh and twelfth. There are many special hymns added to the standard prayers of the hour specially to the six , ninth, eleventh and twelfth hours. Each hour ended by the litanies and the conclusion prayer. At the end of the litanies of the twelfth hour the believers cry with one accord “Keryalayson” 400 times (100 times to each direction) asking for the mercy and forgiveness of the Lord . The deacons circle the altar and the nave of the church 3 times singing “Keryalayson” with the long tune. Then the hymn of “Golgotha”. After the icon of burial and the cross are rapped with flowers , spices and herbs . They are covered with the ‘Eprosfareen” and two candles lit represent the two angles. The Priest begins by reading the 1st , 2nd . And 3rd . psalm till “I lay down and slept”. The deacons continue to recite the rest of the 150 psalms.
- ❖ The church spends the whole night near the tomb beside Jesus praising and praying and reading a lot of the prayers of the prophets. The book of Revelation is read to have a thorough look to the heaven which the Lord has opened by the sacrifice of Himself , and makes it ready to His chosen. The readings of the Joyous Saturday Liturgy of Eucharist is sung half in sad tune and half in a yearly tune. The hymn of “Alleluia this is the day , prayer of conciliation and Psalm 150 are not prayed..