

RCIA – Symbolon Lesson 6: The Paschal Mystery
***We Believe* – Chapter 4: Jesus in His Followers and in His Word**

- **Opening Prayer:** Psalm 22: 1-22

Note: Ps 22 is one of the most important of the messianic psalms. Our Lord himself on the cross repeated its first line, and several other verses are directly quoted, or at least alluded to, in the New Testament as pertaining to His Passion...the entire psalm has been traditionally interpreted in the Catholic Church as referring to Christ. The psalmist, therefore, speaks in Christ's name when in the first section (2-22) he describes the Messiah's sufferings, together with his unshaken confidence in the heavenly Father (10-12, 20-22), and in the second part, the fruits of his redemption (23-32).

- **Song:** They'll Know We are Christians (585)

- **Catechism references for further reflection:**

- The Paschal Mystery: CCC 571-576
- Value of Christ's sacrifice: CCC 616-617
- Our participation in Christ's Suffering: CCC 618-623
- The Descent into hell: CCC 632-635
- Meaning of the Resurrection: CCC 648-655

- **Questions for Discussion:**

- Why do you think the Cross is the most common symbol of Christianity? Why not the empty tomb?
- The speaker on the video sees the Cross as the greatest sign of God's love. Do you agree? Why might this be so?
- What does it mean to "take up your cross"? How do you do that practically in your life?
- Why do Catholics talk about "participating in Christ's suffering" and "offering our sufferings up" to God? Isn't Jesus' death the only sacrifice needed?
- How does Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection affect our relationship with God? How might it give meaning to the suffering we experience in our life?

- **Weekly Gospel Reading:** 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Mk. 10:46-52)

As Jesus was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a sizable crowd,
Bartimaeus, a blind man, the son of Timaeus,
sat by the roadside begging.
On hearing that it was Jesus of Nazareth,
he began to cry out and say,

"Jesus, son of David, have pity on me."
And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent.
But he kept calling out all the more,
"Son of David, have pity on me."
Jesus stopped and said, "Call him."
So they called the blind man, saying to him,
"Take courage; get up, Jesus is calling you."
He threw aside his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus.
Jesus said to him in reply, "What do you want me to do for you?"
The blind man replied to him, "Master, I want to see."
Jesus told him, "Go your way; your faith has saved you."
Immediately he received his sight
and followed him on the way.

Lectio Divina

1. **Lectio:** Read the passage slowly, perhaps several times. Let a phrase or two catch your attention.
2. **Meditatio:** Reflect on the meaning of the words you have chosen. How is God speaking to you through this reading?
3. **Oratio:** Raise your mind and heart to God, using the message of this reading.
4. **Contemplatio:** Rest quietly in the presence of God.
5. **Actio:** Resolve to change your life in some positive way.

- **Closing Prayer:**

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou amongst women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.