

**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:**

- Value of Christ's sacrifice: CCC 616-617
- The Descent into hell: CCC 632-635
- Meaning of the Resurrection: CCC 651-655
- Our participation in Christ's sacrifice: CCC 618

- **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:** 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Mt 22: 1-14)

Jesus again in reply spoke to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come. A second time he sent other servants, saying, "Behold, I have prepared my banquet, my calves and fattened cattle are killed, and everything is ready; come to the feast." Some ignored the invitation and went away, one to his farm, another to his business. The rest laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them.

The king was enraged and sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy to come. Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find.'

The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to meet the guests, he saw a man there not dressed in a wedding garment. The king said to him, 'My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment?'

But he was reduced to silence. Then the king said to his attendants, 'Bind his hands and feet, and cast him into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.' Many are invited, but few are chosen."

### **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.