

*Inspirations of
The Passion-Week, and
The Holy Christian Pasch (Easter)*

**ESTABLISH YOUR KINGDOM
WITHIN ME,
O HOLY RESURRECTION!**

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THE BELIEVER.S SOUL
AND
THE EVENTS OF THE HOLY PASCHA

- † With every Paschal (Holy) Week, the believer's soul gets to touch Christ who is the desire of her heart, and she finds in Him her life, her satisfaction, her joy, her resurrection, and her glory.
- † She sees on **Palm Sunday** her Christ raising a new kingdom, and founding within it a divine new city, and a new altar.
- † On **Paschal (Holy) Monday**, she sees her Christ, the Vinedresser, setting up His paradise inside her, instead of the fruitless fig tree.
- † On **Paschal (Holy) Tuesday**, she throws herself in the bosom of her Heavenly Groom, who has prepared His heavens a wedding chamber for her.
- † On **Paschal (Holy) Wednesday**, she sees Him as her advocate who bears for her the intrigue of the wicked people; removing all deceit, so we can enjoy His honest and sincere nature.
- † On **Maundy Thursday**, she sees her Master serving her. He offers her His broken body and His shed blood to purify her completely.
- † On **Good Friday**, she watches the cross and sees Him stretching His arms to embrace her, with all the believers, and enter with them to His Father's bosom. He reconciles the soul with the peoples, and with the Heavenly Father; and unifies the earthly and the heavenly creations.
- † On **Bright Saturday**, the soul darts to Hades, to find its bolts broken, and to see the Savior carrying the plunder on His shoulders. This plunder are the souls of those who died hoping for His salvation. They dart joyously to the open-gated Paradise.
- † On **Easter Sunday**, she enjoys Him as a the Conqueror of her battle against darkness and the grave. He gives her victory over

Inspirations of Palm Sunday

WELCOME TO THE WONDERFUL LAMB WITHIN MY INMOST

✠ The prophets saw You over the ages.. Your Divine promise was fulfilled:

Behold, the Kingdom of God is within you.

Zechariah saw You entering Jerusalem in Your wonderful procession;

He shouted, *“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion, shout, O daughter of Jerusalem”*.

Let my soul shout within me, praising with the heavenly orders: Come in ! O lowly King, who rides on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Welcome to Your procession in my inmost soul.

The shepherds entered with a procession of sheep,

Tens-of -thousand over tens-of-thousand are sold to be kept in the Israelites' homes,

They slaughter them, and eat them. They are consumed,.. they do not come back!

Not a single sheep can enter my heart.

You are the Wonderful Lamb of God!

You enter my Jerusalem, not to ask me to pay a price,

But You pay my price, and own me.

You enter my inmost, and You offer Your blood as a price to set me free from Satan's bondage!

Dwell in my heart all the days of my expatriation, thus You keep me in Your Father's bosom forever!

You are slaughtered on the cross, thus You slaughter all the Powers of Darkness!

You are killed, and You rise killing my death!

I partake Your offered body, and I live with You in our glories.

I welcome You, O Lamb who offers forgiveness, life and glory!

Every slaughtered lamb, suffers his final destination at the hands

✠ Drive out from within me those who sell doves and
the moneychangers,
Cast away from me all what defiles Your holy temple.
Reign over my inmost, Your wonderful temple!

PRACTICE YOUR DIVINE WORK IN YOUR TEMPLE

✠ In my inmost there lay multitude of blind, lame and deaf ...
and many sick people !
Let every soul which lost her wellness through sin, enter with
You.
Grant her vision and hearing, and open her mouth so she can
praise You !
Yes, because of sin they hated me.
Let them enter with You in my inmost where they can find You,
O healer of souls and bodies !

✠ Why should I ask from others ?
I am also sick !
Open my insight, so I can see You; a King reigning over me !
Grant me the spiritual ears to hear,
so I can hear Your voice, and fulfil Your will !
Grant me an inner mouth, which never ceases to praise You.
Sharing the celestials their joyful shouts !

✠ Grant me holy feelings,
So my heart would move to a truthful altar,
where the frankincense of mercy is burnt,
and everybody smells its fragrant aroma within me !

Inspirations of Pascal Monday

HE PLANTED ME, A FRUITFUL PARADISE.

‡ **In Palm Sunday** Christ entered Jerusalem a King. His Royal Palace was not Solomon's stone Temple, but the souls of those who believed; the living stones. He said to His disciples; " Destroy this temple, and within three days I will build another." ... He has established His kingdom in us, and has deviated our hearts to His Royal Palace by the strength of His resurrection.

‡ **In Pascal Monday** the readings are concentrated on the fig tree which Christ cursed and it withered away. The prophetic readings talk about the destruction of the Israelite fields Finally, they present to us the words of Christ the Lord: "*Most assuredly, I say unto you , unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.*" Jn. 12:24

‡ It was necessary that He plucks up the fruitless trees of our field, to plant Himself in us 'the grain of wheat', then he establishes a new field, or a garden instead of the lost paradise !

LET MY BELOVED ENTER HIS GARDEN

‡ You desired to eat from the fig tree,
But You found in it nothing to eat.
With one word You cursed it, and it withered away, and was plucked up !

‡ Say a word, and every unproductive, fruitless thing in me would be plucked up.
Instead of the fruitless fig tree,
Plant the tree of Your cross.

‡ How come I see You hungry through my poor brethren!?
You have nothing to eat, You have no place to rest Your head!
The walls of my heart are aching!!!
You made me lack nothing,
and I offered You nothing of what You have given me.
Curse the fig tree which is in me!

‡ Sew in me wheat and barley, so men and beasts can eat together!
Plant in me vines, fig trees and pomegranates,
so everybody can drink of the grape juice.
Everybody eats from Your fruits ...

‡ Yes, as You entered Jerusalem, in the promised land,
enter my inner Jerusalem.
Make Your promised land in my inmost.
Enter with Your people from the wilderness to my inmost.
I will lack nothing!

WOE UNTO ME, I LOST MY PARADISE.

‡ For me You established the Garden of Eden,
I should have enjoyed it with my parents, Adam and Eve!
But, unwisely, I surrendered the paradise to the enemy, and lost it.
Behold, all prophets inherited my lost paradise

‡ Zephaniah heard my God's voice saying:
*"I will consume man and beast;
I will consume the birds of the heavens, the fish of the sea."*
(Zeph.1:2)
Joel the prophet saw the swarms of locust invading my paradise,
and he shouted,
*"What the chewing locust left, the swarming locust has eaten;
What the swarming locust left, the crawling locust has eaten;
And what the crawling locust left, the consuming locust has*

Inspirations of Paschal Tuesday

AN ETERNAL WEDDING

- ‡ In the events of **Palm Sunday**, we see our Christ King of Kings, making of each soul a queen and a throne at the same time. She sits with the King of Kings, and bears His kingdom within her. He establishes His Royal Palace within her inmost .. and an everlasting kingdom of joy.
- ‡ In the events of **Paschal Monday**, the Divine Vinedresser plucks up every tree which His Father did not plant in the soul. He uproots the unfruitful fig tree, and plants His cross, a tree of life. The soul becomes a heavenly paradise, flooded with gifts, and in it run brooks of life-giving waters. Our Christ rejoices over this paradise of His. He calls on His heavenly friends to eat, drink, rejoice and exult over the delicious fruit of the Spirit inside the souls of the believers.
- ‡ But in the events of **Paschal Tuesday**, our Christ presents Himself a Heavenly Groom betrothing the soul which has already received her certificate of divorce by reason of her adultery. She was expelled from the heavenly wedding home. Now her Groom declares Himself, not out of boasting, but to bestow His features on her, and to prepare her as a heavenly bride, a queen who has the right to the heaven of heavens,.. to sit on the right-hand side of the King. She continues to be joyous. Her wedding never ceases, and she never ages nor becomes bored. On this day, Jesus met with the Pharisees and the Sadducees who came and *“plotted how they might entangle Him in His talk”* (Mt.22:15-40). They proved that they were not worthy for the eternal matrimonial life; especially that the Sadducees

THE NEW MATRIMONIAL HOME

- ✠ Why am I seeing You crying over my Jerusalem?
The one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her !
Instead of receiving Your friends and Your messengers, O Groom,
She killed, and she stoned...
It was changed from a matrimonial home, into a den for violence and injustice.
- ✠ Demolish what is inside of me,
My old Jerusalem,
Erect of me a new Jerusalem,
The new matrimonial home
- ✠ You come to me to gather me like a little chick under the compassionate mother's wing
Under Your wing I find refuge,
There I settle and be comfortable
There I meet You, as in a matrimonial home.
- ✠ I see You extending Your arms on the cross,
Like the chicken's wings, under which I would be warmed;
And enjoy the love and tenderness which I am missing from everyone.
- ✠ You promised me; "here no one stone be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down."
You promised to hug me under Your wings.
Let the old matrimonial house be demolished, will all memories of infidelity,
and edify for me, under Your wings, the new home,
the home of eternal wedding!

The Son of the Heavenly King is asking my hand to unite with Him! (Mt. 22:2)

✠ You are amazing in Your humility (Mt. 25:35)
Which groom appears hungry to his bride,
Asking her a piece of bread?!
You are the One who feeds all creation,
But You ask for a material piece of bread,
You are the Bread who descended from heaven.. The satisfying
bread of the angels!

✠ You appear thirsty, asking for water from a bucket,
You, O Creator of springs, and Giver of the Living Water!

✠ You appear as a stranger, so Your bride would shelter You,
While You fill heavens and earth with Your Divinity!

✠ You appear naked, for Your bride to clothe You
While You clothe Your creation with Your glory.

✠ You present Yourself as a sick man asking her to visit You,
You are the One who gives the wellness,
Heavenly Healer, and Divine Remedy who cures the soul!

✠ You are not ashamed to call Yourself a prisoner,
And ask Your bride to visit You.
And, in fact, You are the freedom giver,
You undo all bonds, and crush the bolts of Hades!

✠ You are amazing in Your modesty, O Groom,
You consider all little needy ones as Your brothers.
You call me with my brothers: “Come you blessed of My Father
inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the
world.” !

Inspirations from Pascal Wednesday

THE MERCIFUL GUARDIAN

‡ The adulterous woman looked around, and found no merciful heart which would have compassion for her. She found nobody to care for her or tend her. Many desired her beauty and offered her money to satisfy the lust of their flesh in selfishness. Others were disgusted of her, and avoided touching her lest they should be defiled; but their thoughts had the same weakness. She discovered her Living Redeemer in the house of Simon the Pharisee. She sold all her possessions and bought a fragrant oil to anoint His feet. She came speaking with her tears when her tongue could not express her feelings. She gained what the Pharisee could not gain.

‡ This was what an unknown woman did; but the disciple who was entrusted with the money box, made of the love of money his trustee. He was not satisfied with all the money which was in the box, so he entered the temple, not to offer a sincere spiritual worship, but to commit the worst crime of infidelity known to mankind. He asked for the price of a slave to sell his Creator, and led the procession of thieves to deliver his Savior with a kiss!

WHO CAN SHEPHERD ME LIKE YOU?

‡ You are my Living Guardian,
Who is going to love me and care for me like You?!
Your grace attracts me out of the house of sin,
Guides me to the way, O the Way.
I will sell all my possessions,
To offer a pure fragrant oil of love to You!

You paid her debt,
But Your disciple misused Your love and Your gentleness!

✠ You bowed down and washed his feet,
but he did not give his heart to You to wash it!
Grant me to bow down with the woman who was a sinner,
And wash Your feet with Your immaculate blood!

✠ Let me look for You, and run after You,
And find You, even in the Pharisee's house.
You who fills heaven and earth with Your Divinity.

✠ Grant me to seek You with her,
But I am in need of Your grace to attract me to You

✠ Grant me not to busy myself with my outer clothes,
Like the Pharisee who busied himself with his Pharisees' clothes.
Lest You be in my house and I couldn't see You,
Just like the blind Pharisee.
Grant me humility,
That You would clear my insight, and I would meet with You!

✠ Two persons busied themselves with their clothes,
one of the Old Testament, and the other of the New Testament.
Let me not be the third one!

✠ The Pharisee busied himself with his Pharisaism,
and Judas busied himself with his discipleship's outer clothes.
But the woman busied herself with her inmost soul,
and she enjoyed the dwelling of the Lord Christ in her.

**YOU TOOK THE LAST PLACE OF THE SERVANTS'
LINES
LORD OF EVERYONE**

✠ It is not strange that Your disciple priced You with the
price of a slave,

Inspirations of Maundy Thursday

AT THE END OF THE SLAVES' ROWS

‡ Christ the Lord approaches the believer's soul on **Palm Sunday** as the King of Kings, to make of her a queen and a Royal Throne.

On **Paschal Monday** He presents Himself as the Vinedresser who makes of her His fruitful paradise.

On **Paschal Tuesday** He approaches her as the Heavenly Groom and carries her to His eternal bridal room.

On **paschal Wednesday** He appears as the Guardian of the soul. He rushes her out of the house of sin, and admits her into Himself, redeemed with His blood, together with the woman who was a sinner, who had poured the fragrant oil of her love over His feet; while the Pharisee rejected the Lord from being his Guardian. Judas, the unfaithful disciple, did the same thing.

On **Maundy Thursday** the Lord Jesus Christ approaches the believer's soul as her Servant. Moreover, He would rather occupy the last place of the servants' row, willingly!

‡ This was what tugged St. Paul's heart; when he saw the Creator of heavens and earth had willingly taken the shape of a slave. He, then, said: "Who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a servant, and coming in the likeness of men; And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and become obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross." (Phil.2:6-8)

‡ What a difference between the slavery of servants, which denotes crushing and humiliation of the soul; and the 'slavery' of the Master of Everyone, who, through His love occupied a place at the end of the servants' row, to request, not only from the masters, but also from the servants, to extend their feet and allow

With Your slavery You showed me how great is freedom,
Not the selfish, proud freedom; but the freedom of enslaving
myself to others.
With You I wash others' feet, suffer, and others find comfort.
I die, and all live!

✠ I could wish that I myself were deprived of world's freedom,
so my brethren would enjoy Your freedom.
Grant me to experience the sweetness of washing the feet,
And the glory of self-denial for the sake of others!

✠ When are You going to carry me to the servants' lines?
I cannot hope for their last line.
I will not force myself to Your position, O the Wonderful One in
His humility and love.
Embrace me, so I would unite with You, and gain the servants'
glory!

GRAFT ME IN YOU, O VERITABLE VINE

✠ Your love brought You down to slavery,
You practiced the servants' task with the joy of Your goodness!
You admitted me to the banquet of Your flesh and blood.
I take them and abide in You, and You in me.
You wanted to graft me in You, O Veritable Vine.
Your blood flows in my inmost soul's veins.

✠ I abide in You and desire slavery, even for my adversaries.
I desire to die for every soul for which You, O my Savior, had
died.

✠ Before You were led to slaughter,
You broke with Your hands Your body, and offered Your blood,
a Sacrifice of love!
The Sacrifice of the cross is the subject of Your joy,
It is the act of Your love, O You who became a Slave for me!

Because You, Your Father, and Your Holy Spirit are with me!

✠ Your changed solitude from a psychological disease
to a joyous union with You! Welcome to solitude.
It became a Divine present and gift,
I am not worthy to have it!

**I SHOULD COME FORTH WITH YOU, NOT WITH
THEM!**

✠ From the Father You have come forth to me,
So You would accompany me all my life,
And carry me, with Your cross, to Your Father's bosom!

✠ But the masses came out against You as against a robber,
They came out as from their father, Satan,
to hunt You, and cast You outside their camp.
to raise You over the 'wood of shame',
and admit You among the dead!
Grant me to come out with You, not with them!
To come forth to every soul,
in love-filled humility,
And not in the spirit of haughtiness, which is full of unjustness!
Let me accompany You, O Divine love,
And I would find no place for me among the revolting mob!

✠ You came forth to me to save me from judgment,
And they came out against You, to submit You to trial.
They condemned You, O Righteous One, to die,
But You interceded for me, a sinner, and considered me
righteous.
You were counted with the sinners instead of me,
And counted me with the heavenly factions!
Great is Your love,
And great is Your redeeming intercession on my behalf!

Inspirations of Good Friday

THE GREATEST INTERCESSOR

- † The events of the week presented Lord Christ as the King of Kings, the Vinedresser, the Groom, the Living Guardian and the Servant. He thus satisfies all the needs of the believer's soul.
- † The events of this day present our Christ as the Greatest Intercessor. The One whom the believers long waited for His coming since Adam's and Eve's transgression. Everyone was saying with the psalmist: "My soul faints for Your salvation.. My eyes fail from seeking Your word."
- † This day's events are the center of all history. This day occupied the Divine thought before the foundation of the world. Because of this day the Logos incarnated. The eyes and hearts of the heavenly factions, [If we can say so,] were following the events of this day, discovering the mystery of the wonderful Divine love. The believers of the Old Testament were in Hades, silently moving with every movement, while the mysteries of the events and of the Law and prophesies were revealed to them!
- † Let my soul bow down to Your Holy Spirit. Let me share the heavenly and the believers their occupation in You, O Savior of the world.
- † Grant me to go down to Hades, not to dwell in it, or to be preoccupied with it, but to congratulate my fathers and my mothers and all those who preceded me, when they move with their hearts in a procession following the silent Logos, who is accepting the pain and the crucifixion for the joy that was set before Him.

but my bowels are ablaze when I behold Your crucifixion, O my Son and my God.”

Let me listen to You with my mother, Eve, and Saint Mary, saying:

“Your cross demolished all the Powers of Darkness,
Through You the head of the serpent is crushed under my feet
And I live with the spirit of conquest and victory!

✠ I see you, father Abraham, rejoicing.

Now the secret of your son’s, Isaac’s, sacrifice has been better revealed to you!

He offered Isaac a sacrifice of thanksgiving in Hades saying:

“How did You allow me to carry the fire-wood of the burnt offering

And be a type of You, O Carrier of the wood of the cross,

And be tied down to be offered as a type of You, O Unique Offering!

✠ Grant my will in You to be a priest, and my life to be a burnt-offering.

Smell all my deeds, my words and my thoughts a thanksgiving sacrifice, which is accepted to You!

✠ O my soul, do not be disturbed with Joseph,

because the aging Jacob has laid his right hand on Ephraim’s head, who is the younger, and his left hand on Menesseh’s head, who is the firstborn (Gen. 48)

I will not take hold of my father, Jacob’s hand saying:

“Not so, my father..”

because he will tell me; “I know, my son, I know.”

Your hands took the shape of the cross...

I also know with you, father Jacob.

I knew that the cross is the source of every blessing to all my children.

Let me bow, with all my being, under my God’s hand,

But I see heaven and earth were getting ready for that day from the beginning of creation!

Behold my whole life is considered nothing but a preparation for the joy of this redemption and its blessings!

✠ I wonder, what did the myriad of priests do in Hades,
Now that they had found out that all the mysteries of their services and rites were revealed on that day?!
How many birds were slain to smear their blood on other living birds, which were set free to fly,
to declare the healing of lepers.
Now, not a bird, but You, O Incarnate Word, shed Your blood,
and rose from the dead to carry with You every soul whom You had purified by the blood of Your cross.
You fly with her, not in the air, but to the heart of heaven.
and You admit her into Your Father's bosom.
I can see You clearly, my Savior, in all the rituals of my worship,
and in all my proceedings!
What can I say?
In all events, with every believer, in every prayer,
Your cross appears to me!
Verily, Your apostle says, "...before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified."
May the portrait of Your cross never leave my sight,
and never disappear from my thoughts!

LET ME ACCOMPANY ALL YOUR PROPHETS ON THEIR WAY TO THE CRUCIFIXION

✠ Let me accompany all Your prophets,
When they assemble to meditate Your deeds, and walk with them to the cross.
David the king and prophet, my father, saw You and said, "Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing?!"

✠ Why are you amazed, O Zachariah the prophet?
You saw the darkness had covered the face of the earth.
It was ashamed of its creator, who was hanged on the cross.
You did not know whether night time had already come.
It was the sixth hour!
Or was it day time? Darkness had covered the face of the earth!
Let Your cross dwell in my heart!
There will be no day or night.
My inmost soul will be ashamed of what my sins have done to
You!
Darkness has ruled over my life, but only temporarily.
Rise, O Sun of Righteousness,
And enlighten my interior with the Joy of Your resurrection.

✠ Elisha became sad when an ax head fell in water,
But the ax head floated on the surface!
My soul has sunk in raging waters.
Throw Your cross into my life, then I shall rise over the waters of
the world!
Through the cross You descended into Hades, to raise me to Your
paradise!

✠ I ask You importunately; let me join all Your prophets,
and walk with them in the procession of Your cross.
Then I will rejoice my conquest over the powers of injustice.
I will enjoy life and resurrection.

Inspirations of Bright Saturday

OUR CHRIST IS TAKING SPOILS

✠ Our Christ became our Greatest Advocate, who interceded to His Father on our behalf, and reconciled us with Him. Through commending His Soul, and His descending to Hades, He broke its bolts, and carried away from it all the souls of those who had died in patient expectation of His salvation. These were the spoils that He carried to His Father.

✠ He is the Chief Commander who comes leading His church's procession, dashing into the den of Satan and enters Hades where he lives. It was not possible for the evil one to hold Him there, or for the powers of Hades to imprison Him, or for the sepulchre to hold Him.

WHERE ARE THE BOLTS OF HADES?!

✠ You carried the soul of the thief with You to Your paradise.

You smashed the bolts of Hades,
And opened the gates of paradise to humanity!

✠ Tell me, O Greatest Commander!

How did the Myriad of the believers' souls receive You?

They long waited for Your arrival.

They did not try to come close to the bolts of Hades.

They were extremely weak,

tied down as prisoners, with no power or ability!

✠ Now they renewed the hymns of resurrection, which they had enchanted during their expatriation here on earth.

They received You, O Greatest Savior, with songs of conquest!

Inspirations of Easter Sunday
- The Feast of the Holy Resurrection

WHO COULD GET ME OUT OF MY GRAVE?

✠ You called upon me through the prophet Ezekiel:

“Come out of your graves, O my people.”

How can I come out of my grave?

Who will give me life, so I can rise?

Who will untie my bandages?

Who can open the door my grave?

✠ You alone have the power to lay Your life down,

And have the power to take it again!

You offered Your body up to death, but it was not capable to hold
You.

You were risen, my Savior, in might!

✠ Let me unite with You, and rise with You.

All my bodily will, which was limiting my freedom, will
dissolve.

The door of my grave will open, and I shall run away from its
darkness.

✠ My heart became unclean, and full of darkness.

You turn graves into holy places, and produce light out of
darkness.

Say a word, and my nature would change from corruption to
incorruption,

From humiliation to glory with You, from weakness to the
experience of Your power.

✠ I became a prisoner of my ego,

I became like a dead man in his grave.

I want to get out of my grave, out of my selfishness,

I want to carry Your love to everyone.

Or are they the arrows of Your love for me?
You are the Divine Arrow...
Aim into my heart, and I will shout:
“I am wounded by love!”

WHO IS GOING TO ROLL AWAY THE STONE FOR US?

✠ Every new morning my soul shouts:
Who is going to roll away the stone for me?
My inner mouth wants to enchant the joyous hymn of
resurrection!
Send Your angels to roll away for the stone of my grave.
But only You can grant me resurrection!
My sin kills me every day, but Your resurrection gives me life!