

**Passion Sunday**  
**4.13.25**

*On Passion Sunday I don't offer a full length homily. When the gospel concludes, I encourage the assembly to spend a short period of time in quiet reflection on these themes which come from the Passion Narrative: the incomparable sacrifice of Christ on the cross, the forgiveness of sins which Christ offers ("Father, forgive them, they know not what they do" and "today you will be with me in paradise"), and the gift of eternal life that Christ allows us to share in through his suffering, death, and resurrection.*

*I'd encourage you to sit with this Passion Narrative again sometime this week – **Luke 22:14 to 23:56**. There are two figures in this narrative who are worthy of our focus and reflection. The first is Simon, from Cyrene. He was the one picked from the crowd to help Jesus carry his cross. Here is what one commentator had to say about him:*

***There are times when we have choice about what crosses we pick up and times when we don't. In today's gospel, Simon wasn't given a choice. I think about Simon being forced to help carry the cross of a stranger who most of the people around thought was a criminal worthy of death. Did Simon get spit on? Did he get hit by soldiers? Did he have bruises that remained for weeks after carrying the cross?... (This) story is important because it speaks to the communal nature of crosses. We are not meant to carry them alone – even Jesus didn't.***

*(Mary Catherine McDonald, FaithND, 4.13.25)*

*The other figure worthy of our attention is Joseph of Arimathea. Joseph was compassionate, generous, and spoke boldly to the powers-that-be – despite everyone else acting or not acting because they were afraid.*

*How do these two figures mirror the love and sacrifice of Christ through their own actions? How can we better reflect Christ to others – in what we say and by what we do?*