

# SUNDAY OF THE PASSION – PALM SUNDAY

5<sup>th</sup> April 2009

## THE PROCESSION WITH PALMS

Dear friends in Christ, for five weeks of Lent we have been preparing, by works of charity and self-sacrifice, for the celebration of our Lord's paschal mystery. Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the whole Church throughout the world. Christ entered in triumph into his own city, to complete his work as our Messiah: to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us remember with devotion this entry which began his saving work and follow him with a lively faith. United with him in his suffering on the cross, may we share his resurrection and new life. *The priest then says one of the following prayers.*

Let us pray <i>(Pause for silent prayer)</i> Almighty God, we pray you bless these branches and make them holy. Today we joyfully acclaim Jesus our Messiah and King. May we reach one day the happiness of the new and everlasting Jerusalem by faithfully following him who lives and reigns for ever and ever. <b>Amen.</b>	or	Let us pray <i>(Pause for silent prayer)</i> Lord, increase the faith of your people and listen to our prayers. Today we honour Christ our triumphant King by carrying these branches. May we honour you every day by living always in him, for he is Lord for ever and ever. <b>Amen.</b>
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### Gospel

**Mk. 11:1-10**

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

℟: **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord*

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

For the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Christ.**

*After the gospel, a brief homily may be given. Before the procession begins, the celebrant may address the people in these or similar words:*

Let us go forth in peace praising Jesus our Messiah, as did the crowd who welcomed him to Jerusalem. *The procession then begins. During the procession hymns are sung.*

## THE EUCHARIST

### First Reading

**Is. 50:4-9a**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah**

*I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.*

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens — awakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Responsorial Psalm

**Psalm 22(21)**

**Response: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

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| 1. All who see me deride me.<br>They curl their lips, they toss their heads.<br>"He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;<br>let him release him if this is his friend." <b>R.</b> | 3. They divide my clothing among them.<br>They cast lots for my robe.<br>O Lord, do not leave me alone,<br>my strength, make haste to help me! <b>R.</b>  |
| 2. Many dogs have surrounded me,<br>a band of the wicked beset me.<br>They tear holes in my hands and my feet<br>I can count every one of my bones. <b>R.</b>                       | 4. I will tell of your name of my people<br>and praise you where they are assembled.<br>"You who fear the Lord give him praise;<br>all children of Jacob, give him glory.<br>Revere him, children of Israel." <b>R.</b> |

### Second Reading

**Phil. 2:5-11**

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians**

*He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.*

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory.**

Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross.

Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory.**

**THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK**

**Mark 14:1-15:47 or 15:1-39**