

## **PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

### **GOSPEL AT THE BLESSING OF PALMS**

#### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark (11:1-10)**

Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord.

When they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, and said to them,

‘Go into the village opposite you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat; untie it and bring it.

If any one says to you, “Why are you doing this?” say,

“The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.”

And they went away, and found a colt tied at the door out in the open street; and they untied it.

And those who stood there said to them, ‘What are you doing, untying the colt?’

And they told them what Jesus had said; and they let them go.

And they brought the colt to Jesus, and threw their garments on it; and he sat upon it.

And many spread their garments on the road, and others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields.

And those who went before and those who followed cried out, ‘Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is coming!

Hosanna in the highest!’

#### **FIRST READING**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (50:4-7)

The Lord God has given me a disciple’s tongue.

So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech.

Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple.

The Lord God has opened my ear.

For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away.

I offered my back to those who struck me,

my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint, I know I shall not be ashamed.

#### **The Word of the Lord.**

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

#### **R. My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**

All who see me deride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads. ‘He trusted in the Lord, let him save him; let him release him if this is his friend.’ **R.**

Many dogs have surrounded me, a band of the wicked beset me. They tear holes in my hands and my feet I can count every one of my bones. **R.**

They divide my clothing among them. They cast lots for my robe. O Lord, do not leave me alone, my strength, make haste to help me! **R.**

I will tell of your name to my brethren and praise you where they are assembled. You who fear the Lord give him praise; all sons of Jacob, give him glory. Revere him, Israel’s sons. **R.**

### **SECOND READING**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians (2:6-11)

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names

so that all beings  
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,  
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus  
and that every tongue should acclaim  
Jesus Christ as Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

### The Word of the Lord.

### Gospel Acclamation (Ph 2:8-9)

#### R. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory.

Christ was humbler yet,  
even to accepting death, death on a cross.  
But God raised him high  
and gave him the name which is above all names.

#### R. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory.

### PASSION (shorter form)

#### The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark (15:1-39)

First thing in the morning, the chief priest together with the elders and scribes, in short, the whole Sanhedrin, had their plan ready. They had Jesus bound and took him away and handed him over to Pilate.

Pilate questioned him,

O Are you the king of the Jews?

N He answered,

J It is you who say it.

N And the chief priests brought many accusations against him. Pilate questioned him again,

O Have you no reply at all? See how many accusations they are bringing against you!

N But to Pilate's amazement, Jesus made no further reply.

At festival time Pilate used to release a prisoner for them, anyone they asked for. Now a man called Barabbas was then in prison with the rioters who had committed murder during the uprising. When the crowd went up and began to ask Pilate the customary favour, Pilate

answered them,

O Do you want me to release for you the king of the Jews?

N For he realised it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over. The chief priests, however, had incited the crowd to demand that he should release Barabbas for them instead. Then Pilate spoke again.

O But in that case, what am I to do with the man you call king of the Jews?

N They shouted back.

C Crucify him!

N Pilate asked them,

O Why? What harm has he done?

N But they shouted all the louder,

C Crucify him!

N So Pilate anxious to placate the crowd, released Barabbas for them and, having ordered Jesus to be scourged, handed him over to be crucified.

The soldiers led him away to the inner part of the palace, that is, the Praetorium, and called the whole cohort together. They dressed him up in purple, twisted some thorns into a crown and put it on him. And they began saluting him,

C Hail, king of the Jews!

N They struck his head with a reed and spat on him; and they went down on their knees to do him homage. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the purple and dressed him in his own clothes.

They led him out to crucify him. They enlisted a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means the place of the skull.

They offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he refused it. Then they crucified him, and

shared out his clothes, casting lots to decide what each should get. It was the third hour when they crucified him. The inscription giving the charge against him read: 'The King of the Jews.' And they crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said,

**C** Aha! So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself: come down from the cross!

**N** The chief priests and the scribes mocked him among themselves in the same way. They said,

**C** He saved others, he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the king of Israel, come down from the cross now, for us to see it and believe.

**N** Even those who were crucified with him taunted him.

When the sixth hour came there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And

at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

**J** Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?

**N** This means 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood by heard this, they said,

**C** Listen, he is calling on Elijah.

**N** Someone ran and soaked a sponge in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink, saying,

**O** Wait and see if Elijah will come to take him down.

**N** But Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

**All kneel and pause a moment.**

**N** And the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The centurion, who was standing in front of him, had seen how he had died, and he said,

**O** In truth this man was a son of God.