



PALM Sunday – 2nd of APRIL 2023 – Cycle A

## ALWAYS WITH YOU



## SETTING

We entered Jerusalem, we are part of that crowd, an uproarious crowd that cries out and shouts with joy to the Son of David.

Take a good look at what happens and stop for a moment. A simple man, mounted on a donkey, bouquets, screams. What is happening? To whom or what do they acclaim?

In reality, perhaps we are all in that noisy, empty crowd, without much meaning, conditioned by others.

Stop, continue watching. That universe that acclaims without knowing very well, without content, will soon change. Clear the truth, live in the moment.

Holy Week begins, the great mystery begins. Sunday of contrast which we are going to experience these days. Allow me to follow you as you want Lord.

**SONG. Hosanna – Springvale Videochanel**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YApEIJvE6S4>

## **GOSPEL – Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ Mat 26, 14 - 27, 66**

Jesus was brought before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus replied, "You say so." And, while the high priests and the elders accused him, he did not answer anything. Then Pilate asked him: - "Don't you hear how many charges are brought against you?" Since he did not answer any questions, the governor was very surprised. For the party, the governor used to release a prisoner, whoever the people wanted. There was then a famous prisoner named Barabbas. When the people came, Pilate said to them: - "Who do you want me to release to you, Barabbas or Jesus, whom they call the Messiah?" Well, he knew that they had given it to him out of envy. And, while he was sitting in court, his wife sent him to say: - "Do not mess with that righteous man, because tonight I suffered a lot dreaming about him." But the high priests and the elders convinced the people to ask for the pardon of Barabbas and the death of Jesus. The governor asked: - "Which of the two do you want me to release?" They said: - "To Barabbas." Pilate asked them: - "And what do I do with Jesus, called the Messiah?" They all answered: - "Let them crucify him." Pilate insisted: - "Well, what wrong has he done?" But they shouted louder: - "Let them crucify him!" When Pilate saw that everything was useless and that, on the contrary, a tumult was forming, he took water and washed his hands in the presence of the crowd, saying: - "I am innocent of this blood. There you" And the whole town answered: - "His blood be on us and on our children!" Then he released Barabbas; and Jesus, after whipping him, handed him over to be crucified. The governor's soldiers took Jesus to the praetorian and gathered the whole company around him. They stripped him naked and put a purple cloak on him and, plaiting a crown of thorns, they tied it on his head and put a reed in his head. The right hand. And, bending the knee before him, they mocked him, saying: - "Hail, king of the Jews!" Then they would spit on him, take the rod from him, and beat him on the head with it. And, finished with the mockery, they took off his mantle, put his clothes on him and took him to be crucified. On their way out, they found a man from Cyrene named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. When they arrived at the place called Golgotha (which means: "The Skull"), they gave him wine mixed with gall to drink; he tasted

it, but did not want to drink it. After crucifying him, they divided up his clothes, casting lots, and then sat down to guard him. Above his head they placed a sign with the accusation: "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Two thieves were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. Those who passed by reviled him and said, shaking their heads: -"You who destroyed the temple and rebuilt it in three days, save yourself; If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." The chiefs with the scribes and the elders also mocked, saying: -"He has saved others, and he cannot be saved. Is he not the king of Israel? Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe him. Have you not trusted God? If God loves him so much, let him free him now. Did not he say he was the Son of God?" Even the thieves who were crucified with him insulted him. From noon to mid-afternoon, darkness came over the whole region. In the middle of the afternoon, Jesus shouted: "Eli, Eli, Sabaktani lama." That is to say: "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?") Upon hearing it, some of those who were there said: -"This one calls Elijah." One of them ran away; immediately, he took a sponge soaked in vinegar and, holding it in a reed, he gave him to drink. The others said: -"Leave him alone; let us see if Elijah comes to save him." Jesus gave another loud cry and breathed out the spirit. Then the veil of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom; the earth trembled, the rocks cracked. The graves were opened, and many bodies of saints who had died were raised to life. After he rose, they came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City, and appeared too many. The centurion and his men, who guarded Jesus, seeing the earthquake and what was happening, said terrified: - "Really this was the Son of God

## **We deepen the Gospel**

Every year on Palm Sunday we read the Passion narrative from one of the Synoptic Gospels. This year, it is the Gospel of Matthew. At the beginning, we have the impression that Matthew wants to highlight what seemed to him to be a terrible paradox in this drama, that is to say: that, apart from his family and his disciples, the majority of the Jews, specifically those who should have been on the side of Jesus, they have not recognized him, they have despised him and humiliated him. And instead it is the pagans, who, without being aware, have given him the true titles of nobility that corresponded to him.

**First title: King of the Jews:** Pilate, the governor asks him: "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus replies: "You say so" which suggests that he agrees. In the Gospel of Matthew, these will be almost the last words of Jesus before his death: during his trial and his execution, Jesus will not say anything else and, just at the moment of dying, he will say only one prayer for his people, the psalm 21: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" In this we see the thanksgiving of the Jewish people who recognize that God has always saved them, even from the greatest dangers. In addition, there is the writing on the cross that states: "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

**Second Title: Messiah.** This title is given to him by Pilate twice, and those two times frame a very important statement concerning Jesus. This affirmation comes from the mouth of Pilate's wife, also a pagan. This woman had a dream and in it she received a revelation. The woman gives Jesus the noblest title in all of the Old Testament: "just man." The woman does not know the scope of these words that she has just pronounced either, but the Christians, celebrating the event of the death and resurrection of Christ a few years later, recognized that it was the pagans, the emigrants of the colonizing people, who were the first to in telling the truth about Jesus at a time when, apparently, Jesus was eliminated from the history of the world.

**Third title, Son of God:** This title is bestowed on him, first of all, out of pure mockery, to humiliate him even more, from those who pass by and cruelly point out to the dying man the contrast between the greatness of the title and his final impotence. Finally once again it is the chief priests, the scribes and the elders who challenge him: if he really were the Son of God, he would not be where he is. But, finally, that same title is going to be bestowed on him by the Roman centurion and, now, it resonates as a true profession of faith: "Truly this man was the Son of God." Here we could say that this title given to Jesus is the culmination of the story. This phrase already prefigures the conversion of the pagans; we understand the message of Saint Matthew: **for him, the death of Christ is not a failure, it is a victory!**

### **Clues for prayer**

- What image of God and his envoy does the text offers? Is it the image you have of Jesus? What do you need to change in the image you have of Him?

- What attitudes of Jesus would you highlight? Which ones do you feel called to live and transmit?

- In this time of Lent, how have you discovered that you can help others?

## **AMBIENTAL MUSIC. WISTFUL – KENDRA SPRINGER**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XSrQbYoXxPE>

### **CHEER**

Blessed is he who comes  
In the name of the Lord.  
Lord of coherence,  
Of life, of commitment,  
Of deliverance, of meaning,  
Of the kind words,  
Of sound judgment,  
Of the tender look,  
Of the gentle breeze,  
Of what is and will always  
be,  
Of the small gestures,  
The one who turns both  
cheeks,  
Of the one who writes on  
earth,  
Of the one who cures with  
mud,  
Saliva and gesture;  
The one who goes with his  
steps,  
Accompanying others,

The one who always  
accompanies,  
The one who enters in  
silence  
And waits to be invited  
Deeper,  
The sower of dreams,  
The grower of hopes,  
The one who walks  
With the friends of your  
group.  
Being with him and in him.  
To this one who shouts and  
acclaims  
The crowd,  
Lost in attempts,  
Pressed by a power  
That silences life  
That conditions that crowd.  
Let us accompany without  
prejudice,  
Free with him  
Praise him, praise Him...  
Be brave and praise Him.

**SONG. Hosanna – Christian worshiper**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NoM0AT8fBvs>

**Jesus died for me – Walk with God -**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GUAOA8nVL6M>



**Sisters of Charity of St. Anne.**

C/ Mother Rafols, 13 - 50.004 –

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