

### Gospel Reflection – *continued*

St. Luke also mentions that one of thieves commits himself to Jesus and that Jesus not only forgives him, but also his executioners.

We also hear that after Jesus' death, the pagan Centurion gives glory to God and that the crowd departs in grief & repentance.

In spite of the darkness and horror of Jesus' passion, Luke's manages to present an overall impression of love and peace. Again notice the gentleness with which Jesus reproaches Judas; how he heals the high priest servant's ear. Notice the silent look, that leads Peter to repentance and how Herod and Pilate, who haven't talked for years, are reconciled.

Finally, this sense of love and peace is emphasised by Jesus' final words on the cross: He seeks his Father's forgiveness for his tormentors; he promises salvation to the repentant thief and finally, Jesus entrusts his spirit into the Father's hands. To the end, Jesus does not cease to do good.

(Extracts from Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB)

#### **Prayer over the Offerings**

Through the Passion of your Only Begotten Son, O Lord, may our reconciliation with you be near at hand, so that, though we do not merit it by our own deeds, yet by this sacrifice made once for all, we may feel already the effects of your mercy. Through Christ our Lord.

#### **Prayer after Communion**

Nourished with these sacred gifts, we humbly beseech you, O Lord, that, just as through the death of your Son you have brought us to hope for what we believe, so by his Resurrection you may lead us to where you call. Through Christ our Lord.



## **Palm / Passion Sunday Yr. C**

### **13<sup>th</sup> April 2025**



#### **Processional Gospel ~ Luke 19: 28-40**

Today's Mass, which leads us into Holy Week, the 'Great Week', begins with the end: our opening gospel tells the glorious entrance of Jesus, Son of David, into Jerusalem. This procession with branches, is more than a reconstruction of a past event. The entrance of Jesus, the Messiah-King, into the holy city prophetically anticipates his triumph over sin and death and his entry into heavenly glory. Notice that the cry of the 'whole multitude of the disciples' - as they accompany their King into life - echoes the song of the angels on Christmas night, praising and glorifying God. From this joyful scene, we quickly move into the Passion of Christ, but we retain the joy of his victory. Entering into his sufferings, we are invited this Holy Week to follow our Lord, in offering our lives in love to the Father.

#### **Opening Prayer**

Almighty ever-living God, who as an example of humility for the human race to follow caused our Saviour to take flesh and submit to the Cross, graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of patient suffering and so merit a share in his Resurrection.



### **Isaiah 50:4-7**

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backwards. I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. But the Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

In our First Reading we listen to the third song of the Suffering Servant found in Isaiah. Who is this mysterious figure who brings life to the people? We do not know, but the Servant certainly prefigures Christ. Today's text exalts the Servant's perseverance and constancy. The teaching he imparts is not his own. It is the Lord who instructs him. The constant contact with the Lord's word keeps him watchful and he cannot but speak his words. The daily nearness of the Servant to his Master explains his strength.

### **Psalms 22(23):8-9,17-20,23-24**

*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, for in him he delights.'*

*For dogs have surrounded me; a band of the wicked besets me.*

*They tear holes in my hands and my feet; I can count every one of my bones.*

*They divide my clothing among them, they cast lots for my robe. But you, O LORD, do not stay afar off; my strength, make haste to help me!*

*I will tell of your name to my kin, and praise you in the midst of the assembly; 'You who fear the LORD, give him praise; all descendants of Jacob, give him glory; revere him, all you descendants of Israel.'*

### **Philippians 2:6-11**

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

In our Second Reading we have Paul's beautiful hymn praising Christ & inviting us to reflect on the Paschal mystery: the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, through which we have been brought to new life.

***Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!***

***Christ became for us obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!***

## **The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke 23:1-49**

Notice how Luke's account of Jesus' Passion differs from Matthew, Mark & John. Major themes that have run throughout his gospel, are now underlined. Luke expands the story of the Last Supper, teaching especially about the kingdom of God, which is being realised through Jesus' death and resurrection. He teaches that leadership should not be about dignity, but about service and he goes on to stress that those who follow him must be prepared to share in his trials & suffering.

Another important theme that runs throughout Luke's gospel is *repentance & forgiveness* – Notice how Peter's repentance is stressed: He wept 'bitterly'. Notice also how the 'women of Jerusalem' weep for our Lord.