

Palm / Passion Sunday, 24 March 2024

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a The obedience of the Lord's servant

⁴The Sovereign LORD has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed. ⁵The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears; I have not been rebellious, I have not turned away. ⁶I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. ⁷Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. ⁸He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me! ⁹It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me. Who will condemn me? They will all wear out like a garment; the moths will eat them up.

PSALM 118:1,2,19-29

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures for ever. Let Israel say: 'His love endures for ever.' ¹⁹Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the LORD. ²⁰This is the gate of the LORD through which the righteous may enter. ²¹I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation. ²²The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; ²³the LORD has done this, and it is marvellous in our eyes. ²⁴The LORD has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad. ²⁵LORD, save us! LORD, grant us success! ²⁶Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless you. ²⁷The LORD is God, and he has made his light shine on us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar. ²⁸You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, and I will exalt you. ²⁹Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures for ever.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11 Christ- the obedient servant and exalted Lord

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶ who, being in very nature¹ God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross! ⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

GOSPEL: Mark 11:1 – 11 Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem

11 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, ² saying to them, 'Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³ If anyone asks you, "Why are you doing this?" say, "The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.'" ⁴ They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, ⁵ some people standing there asked, 'What are you doing, untying that colt?' ⁶ They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. ⁷ When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. ⁹ Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, 'Hosanna!' 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!' ¹⁰ 'Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!' 'Hosanna in the highest heaven!' ¹¹ Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple courts. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.