

HOLY WEEK- PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

Reading 1: Is 50: 4-7, Responsorial Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24,

Reading 2: Phil 2:6-11, Gospel: Mark 15: 1-39

We celebrate today as both Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday. Today's liturgy associates contrasting moments of glory ("Hosanna") and suffering ("Crucify him"). Today's first readings, the third of Isaiah's four Servant Songs, like the other three, foreshadows Jesus' own life and mission. The Refrain for today's Responsorial Psalm (PS 22), "My God, why have You abandoned Me?" plunges into the heart of Christ's Passion. The Second reading is taken from Paul's letter to the Philippians, is an ancient Christian hymn representing a very early Christian understanding of who Jesus is and how his mission saves us from sin and death.

We call this Palm Sunday as also Passion Sunday. Generally, we associate the word "passion" with strong emotions of fear, love, hatred and anger. Passion is also unlimited zeal and enthusiasm, and this enthusiasm can be negative or positive. The entire life of Jesus was full of passion: passion to the love of His Father and to the humanity. Jesus entered the Holy City riding on a donkey, that is, the animal of simple country people and, moreover, a donkey that did not belong to him, that he had been loaned for this occasion. Even the disciples did not understand this. Only after Passover did they realize this in a clear way. The Palm Sunday service as a challenge and a remembrance. It challenges us to remember...Christ's suffering and

death – the triumph of that ride into Jerusalem, and the tragedy of Calvary. It challenges us to remember...our role in that passion – that what Christ suffered, he suffered for us. But it also challenges us to remember...what will become of these palms...and become of us. As we heard five weeks ago: “Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return”. The ashes were washed away. But these palms stay with us – offering silent testimony, bearing witness, calling on us not to forget what we are, and what we will be. That is what our Lenten pilgrimage has been about. In a sense, each of us this day holds our future in our hands. What will we do with it? Amen

Homily- Fr. Antony Chundelikkat