



ANNUNCIATION CHURCH

"As the father sent me, so I send you."

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April 5, 2020
**At the name of Jesus
every knee should bend . . .
and every tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord.**

Philippians 2:10, 11

Palm Sunday OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

The journey of Lent brings us to an encounter with the cross. During Lent, we have been led more deeply into questions at the heart of our faith: Who is God? And who are we, the Church? The Gospel of Matthew indicates that, in the crucifixion, God's true nature is most fully revealed in Jesus. In Jesus, God is the self-emptying One, who embraces humility and suffers rejection, as Paul tells the Philippians. God's power is redefined, present not in coercion and violence, but in Jesus' unbounded love. We the Church can learn who we are, the followers of the Crucified One, when we bear crosses that offer life and hope to the world. We more fully become the Church when we empty ourselves by sharing in others' sufferings, rejecting violence, and taking risks for justice and reconciliation. Like Jesus, we may reveal God's power as compassion and mercy.

ENDURING HOPE

Today's passage from Isaiah presents us with a common human dilemma: what do we do with our suffering? The speaker describes himself as God's faithful servant, who suffers beatings and mockery. We can't be sure who the speaker is, but we can see his extraordinary response. He chooses not to fight back, not to respond to violence with violence. He chooses to endure with hope that God, in God's own way, will deliver and vindicate him. Christians later saw this passage as a poignant description of Jesus' suffering in his passion. We all have many experiences of tragic or undeserved suffering. We might desire to

run from our pain, or to inflict suffering upon others, or to live in despair. In faith, we are invited to share in the suffering of Jesus, sharing also with all who suffer similarly. We can place our wounds in God's hands. We may live in enduring hope that Christ is indeed present and accompanies us in our pain. In God's own way, our suffering may be transformed, so to serve God's purposes.

A NEW KINGDOM

The Gospel of Matthew, using various symbols from scripture, presents Jesus as the true and victorious king who begins a new kingdom. After his royal entrance into Jerusalem, Jesus ascends his scandalous and paradoxical throne, the cross. The cross reveals the nature of his kingdom, based on God's forgiveness and sacrificial love. Evil forces thrive when violence stirs even more violence. By accepting his suffering and offering forgiveness, Jesus broke the primary cycle of violence. The Gospels proclaim that the powers of evil, though continuing their effects today, were decisively defeated on the cross.

The resurrection of Jesus launches the reign of God, which will be fully complete upon Jesus' return. We are now offered a new path for being human by which, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we may partner with God to create new cycles of life and hope.

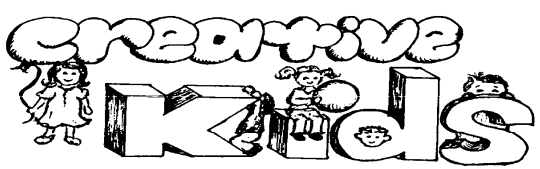
Today's Readings: Mt 21:1-11; Isa 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14 — 27:66 [27:11-54]

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We encourage you to take notes as you reflect on this week readings / homily:

Large empty lined area for taking notes.



GOD'S WORD FOR CHILDREN!

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, Year A

Mt 21:1-11 Is 50:4-7 Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 20, 23-24
Phil 2:6-11 Mt 26:14-27, 66 or Mt 27:11-54

Easter Preparation

During this week, prepare your hearts for Easter.

- Monday - Do something nice for 3 different people.
- Tuesday - List 3 things that Jesus would be proud of you for 3 things that need improvement.
- Wednesday - Talk to an adult or friend about what the true meaning of Easter is all about. Don't be afraid to ask silly questions.
- Thursday - Pray to Jesus and thank Him for what He suffered for you.
- Friday - Do the stations of the cross. They are listed in your Bible.
- Saturday - Read through the Glorious Mysteries (also listed in your Bible) or say the Rosary.

People are willing to do many things for those they love. But do you know what Jesus was willing to do? Find and use the nine hidden words on the cross to complete the "Greatest Love Story" ever.

When the _____ came,
 Jesus was _____ and
 went to the cross. There he
 suffered and _____
 to take away the
 _____ for
 our _____. He did this out
 of his deep _____ for
 everyone in the _____. Tell
 _____ today, what
 _____ did for them!



El pasaje de hoy del profeta Isaías nos presenta con un dilema humano común, ¿qué hacemos con nuestro sufrimiento? El profeta se describe a sí mismo como un fiel siervo de Dios, que sufre golpes y burlas. Exactamente no se sabe quién escribió este texto, pero podemos apreciar su extraordinaria respuesta. Él elige no contraatacar, no responder a la violencia con violencia. Él elige sobrellevar con esperanza que Dios, a la manera de Dios, cumpla y lo justifique. Tiempo después los cristianos vieron en este pasaje una descripción del sufrimiento y pasión de Jesús.

Todos tenemos muchas experiencias de un sufrimiento trágico o inmerecido. Podemos desear echarnos a correr y alejarnos de nuestro sufrimiento, o lastimar u ocasionar sufrimiento a alguien más o vivir con desesperación. Con fe, estamos invitados a compartir el sufrimiento de Jesús, y acompañar aquellas personas que conocemos que están sufriendo. Podemos poner nuestras heridas en las manos de Dios. Podemos vivir con una esperanza persistente de que Cristo en verdad está presente y nos acompaña en nuestro dolor. A la manera de Dios, nuestro sufrimiento puede ser transformado, para que sirva para los propósitos de Dios.

UN NUEVO REINO

El Evangelio de Mateo, usando varios símbolos de las Escrituras, presenta a Jesús como el verdadero y victorioso rey que comienza un nuevo reino. Después de su entrada real a Jerusalén, Jesús asciende a un trono paradójico y escandaloso, la cruz. La cruz revela la naturaleza de su reino, basado en el perdón de Dios y su amor expiatorio. Las fuerzas del mal prosperan cuando la violencia suscita más violencia. Al aceptar su sufrimiento y al ofrecer perdón, Jesús rompe el círculo primario de la violencia. Los evangelios proclaman que las fuerzas del mal, aun cuando continúan sus efectos hasta hoy, fueron derrotados en la cruz.

La resurrección de Jesús pone en marcha el reino de Dios, el cual será cumplido al regreso de Jesús. Ahora se nos ofrece, como seres humanos, un nuevo camino por medio del cual y empoderados por el Espíritu Santo, podemos ser colaboradores junto con Dios para crear ciclos nuevos de vida y esperanza.

Lecturas de hoy: Mt 21:1-11; Is 50:4-7; Sal 22 (21):8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24; Flp 2:6-11; Mt 26:14 — 27:66 [27:11-54]