

Sunday, April 2, 2023

Palm Sunday of the Passion of The Lord

Procession with Palms: (Lec.37)

Matthew 21:1-11

Mass Readings: (Lec.38)

- 1) Isaiah 50:4-7
- 2) Philippians 2:6-11
- 3) Matthew 26:14–27:66

FOCUS: Embracing the cross of Jesus leads to everlasting life.

The cross of shame in Jesus' time has become for us the sign of victory over sin and death. Through his perfect sacrifice of love on the cross, Jesus won forgiveness for our sins and defeated the power of sin and evil. By so doing, Jesus transformed the cross from an instrument of death into the tree of life and source of our salvation.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

We experience all kinds of emotions in today's readings. The joyous crowd becomes an angry and vengeful crowd. Jesus' disciples betray, deny or run away from him. The women, however, remain strong even though their hearts are being torn out. The heavens weep as Jesus empties himself out, obedient to the point of death – death on a cross.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: In awe and wonder of the infinite recesses of God's love for us, which shines forth in Christ's perfect sacrifice of love on the cross, we bring our needs before the Lord.

- 1) For Pope Francis, and all the clergy and faithful, as we walk the way of Jesus this week, may we ponder the paschal mystery with new purpose and intent, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civil leaders, may they govern with wisdom and humility, always respecting the rights of all those they govern, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who find life burdensome, may they turn to the one crucified for all and know his consolation and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all those involved in healing professions or hospice care in our parish, may their gentle touch and knowledge bring comfort to their patients, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those near death, may the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus lead them to eternal glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of the crucified one, hear our humble prayers and lead us to the joy of your eternal presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord.