

Psalm/Passion Sunday.

Procession: Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16.

Mass: Is 50:4-7. Phil 2:6-11.

Long Gospel: Mk 14:1-15:47.

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The Gospel for the procession is either of these two:

Mk 11:1-10

When they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ² and said to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately on entering it, you will find a colt tethered on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it here. ³ If anyone should say to you, 'Why are you doing this?' reply, 'The Master has need of it and will send it back here at once.'" ⁴ So they went off and found a colt tethered at a gate outside on the street, and they untied it. ⁵ Some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶ They answered them just as Jesus had told them to, and they permitted them to do it. ⁷ So they brought the colt to Jesus and put their cloaks over it. And he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. ⁹ Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out:

"Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

¹⁰ Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come!

Hosanna in the highest!"

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Or

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Jn 12:12-16.

On the next day, when the great crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, ¹³ they took palm branches * and went out to meet him, and cried out: "Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, (even) the king of Israel." ¹⁴ Jesus found an ass and sat upon it, as is written: ¹⁵ "Fear no more, O daughter Zion; see, your king comes, seated upon an ass's colt." ¹⁶ His disciples did not understand this at first, but when Jesus had been glorified they remembered that these things were written about him and that they had done this for him.

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The long Gospel of the Mass is

Mk 14:1-15:47,

but I won't write it all on this page.

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The first reading is this:

Is 50:4-7.

The Lord GOD has given me a well-trained tongue, That I might know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them.

Morning after morning he opens my ear that I may hear; 5 And I have not rebelled, have not turned back. 6 I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; My face I did not shield from buffets and spitting. 7 The Lord GOD is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame.

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The second reading is this:

Phil 2:6-11.

Though Christ Jesus was in the form of God, he did not regard equality with God something to be grasped ('No hizo alarde de su categoría de Dios'). 7 Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, 8 he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. 9 Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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MEDITATION:

I want to be brief today (and you're saying "Thanks be to God"!). The Gospel is I-I-long

It's great that the Son of God himself became one of us (incarnate), and it's awful that he got condemned to a painful death, but he then resurrected! This Sunday we remember the good and the bad, and the Bad News of this Sunday is a prologue leading to the brilliant news which is Easter itself. It makes us feel good and bad. You could nearly say that it's a 'schizophrenic Sunday'!

The ancient Jews welcomed the Messiah by putting palms or olives or even cloaks on the road in front of him. The welcome didn't last long for Jesus 2000 years ago. Will our welcome last now? Mother Teresa of Calcutta used to say that she was no fine creature but that she'd like to be the donkey on which Christ could travel! Will we carry Him?

In the reading for the procession, 'Hosanna' means 'open up the door', so let's open the door of our hearts!

..... Dara.

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