

# Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, Vigil

Br. Samuel Springuel

13 April, 2019

**Procession Gospel** Luke 19:28–40

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading** Isaiah 50:4–7

**Responsorial Psalm** Psalm 22:8–9,17–18,19–20,23–24

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** Philippians 2:6–11

**Gospel** Luke 22:14–23:56

## At the Procession

“Today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord.” “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

With these words the angels announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds around Bethlehem. Today we hear a version of them taken up by the people of Jerusalem. Mortals join their voices to the angels as they proclaim:

“Blessed is the king who comes in the Name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.”

We too are called to this proclamation; to make our voices one with the crowd in Jerusalem, with the angels on that long ago night in Bethlehem, with the heavenly hosts who even now continue this proclamation. As we say in the “Holy, Holy” in every mass:

“Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”

Brothers and sisters, like the crowds who acclaimed Jesus in Jerusalem, let us go forth in peace.

## After the reading of the Passion

Well, that didn't take very long. Fame is a fickle mistress and in the space of less than a week the crowds went from proclaiming Jesus as King to calling for his crucifixion. The magnificence of the entrance we memorialized at the beginning of Mass is now contrasted with the ugliness of the death we just heard proclaimed. The peace which Jesus's coming proclaims, with which we entered the Church, has seemingly been despoiled, corrupted by the greed, the jealousy, and the fear of people who were comfortable with the status quo.

But that status quo, it locked us into a pattern of sin, of separation from God and the denial of our true fulfilment. It took away eternity and offered us

the paltry door prize of worldly success. And like most door prizes, it's either a piece-of-crap knock-off that breaks the moment you touch it or something given only to the select few.

Jesus came to disrupt that status quo. He came to give us back the gift God had meant for us from the very beginning. And indeed, he did this through the very crucifixion with which some people tried to stop him. We memorialize the Passion today, we make it present again, but we must always remember that the Passion is not the end of the story. As we will memorialize in the greatest of celebrations next week, as we do every week, Jesus died so that he might Rise to new life, a life he offers to us all.

This message is so important that a single day's memorialization is not enough. At the end of this week, we will stretch Jesus's Passion out for three full days. We will memorialize it in intimate detail, and I encourage you to make the time to participate as best you can. But do so with the mind of Christ, with an eye on the Resurrection, so that when Easter comes you are ready for the eight days we take to celebrate that, and to carry the message with you for the whole year.