

# Hosanna!

## PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

San Ignacio de Loyola Parish

March 29, 2015

### REFLECTION ON THE WORD

In Mark's account of Jesus' passion, many persons respond to Jesus in many different ways. A woman anoints him with perfumed oil, anticipating his burial. At the Last Supper, Peter and the rest of the Twelve swear they will never deny him. In Gethsemane, the apostles sleep. Judas betrays Jesus with a kiss. In fear, a young man



runs away naked. During the trial, many give false witness. Peter denies Jesus three times. Pilate hands him over to be crucified. Soldiers mock him. Simon of Cyrene helps him carry the cross. Soldiers crucify him. The centurion proclaims Jesus to be the "Son of God". At the crucifixion, many women remained present. Joseph of Arimathea buries Jesus. During Jesus' last hours, only a few faithful people stand by Jesus. Most do not. **As we hear this passion proclaimed, where do we stand?**

O, Sun of Justice, source of powerful energy,  
Vastly more powerful than the burning sun,  
Energize us into taking deliberate action  
To aid those suffering from the power of others.

*adapted from a Latin hymn in  
Fragments Of Your Ancient Name*

### A CHOICE OF DIRECTIONS

Today's reading from the mighty Isaiah (Isaiah 50:4-7) is a lovely one, a haunting one. Isaiah knows who he is. He knows exactly what his gifts are—"God has given me the tongue of a teacher," he says—and so he knows what he must do as a result. He himself has to learn the Word of God and he must speak it. He has come to say his truth. "I have set my face like flint," he says. I am determined to go on. I am convinced that I am supposed to go on.

**Lent** is an opportunity to look again at who we are, at where we're going in life, at how we're getting to where we say we want to go. Everybody needs to know that they have lived for something. **Lent** does not permit us the luxury of banality. **Lent ends in the shadow of an empty cross and in the sunrise of an empty tomb.** There are great things to be done by us and each of them takes great effort; the way to the empty tomb goes through the mount of the cross.

**Lent** is our time to prepare to carry the crosses of the world ourselves. The people around us are hungry; it is up to us to see that they are fed. Women around us are not safe in their homes; it is up to us to see that they are protected. Children around us are in danger on the streets and in their homes; it is up to us to see that they are safe. **Lent** puts options before us. We can choose to be open or hardhearted, attuned to God or closed to everything but the self, a spiritual person or a religious person (there is a difference, you know), full of faith or drowned in despair, stagnant or full of life. **Lent is a choice of directions.**

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 1 Timothy 2:1*

**LET US PRAY TOGETHER TODAY** FOR THE CHRONICALLY ILL: Sylvia Tasner, Fr. Vega, Jerry and Albert Vega, Rudy & Sonia Méndez, Maggie Maziarz, and Peter and Leida Fiorito. **Let us join our hearts**



**together tightly this week** in praying for all those in danger because of the growing anti-Christian hate campaign across India, especially for the missionary sisters who were so violently attacked last week in northern India.

## — THE LITURGICAL CORNER

### HOLY WEEK

Today, we enter into a week made “holy” forever by the self surrendering love of Jesus - for us all. All week, we remember how he loved us. Whatever we do, no matter how busy or “distracted” we might be, we can let the power of this week be in the background of our daily reflections. He entered into our life - with its profound joys and its punishing evils - that we might never experience those struggles alone. So no matter what we experience this week, we can let it become a “holy” week, letting it all be touched by the graces of this week. From the humble, yet triumphant, entry into Jerusalem, to our standing together at the foot of his cross, this can be a week which helps us bring all of the elements of our lives, all our experiences of sin and death, into the font of his redeeming, liberating death and resurrection.

## A MEDITATION FOR HOLY WEEK

I want a god as my accomplice  
a god who hurts to the last bone and  
bites the air in pain  
a jobless god  
a striking god  
a hungry god  
a fugitive god  
an exiled god  
an enraged god  
a god who longs from jail for a change of things.

**I want a more godlike God**

— Francisco X. Alarcón

## Know What Must Be Done in This World and Do It

### Self Reflection

What road are you on? What is your life goal? Make a chart of your life, from where you’ve come and to where you want to go. What do you need to do to get there? Begin now doing it.

### Begin again

What can you do in your family, neighborhood, city or nation to sharpen your vision of the reality around us? How will you “set your face like flint” and live the Jesus life in this world?

### Live Anew

Whose cross do you carry besides your own? Do something concrete to lessen the burden of another’s cross, someone you don’t know, or don’t like, or even consider helping an enemy.

**REMINDER:** Fr. Vega will offer his annual Lenten Retreat in English on Good Friday. retreat will take place in the chapel of the Colegio from 9am to 12 noon. All are invited.

## PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE



### Gospel Mark 14:1-15:47

1. The woman was “wasting” expensive perfumed oil on Jesus. Does this relate to God’s self-wasting love on humankind? How is the Eucharist a continuation of Christ’s self-giving love for us? Does your busy schedule allow time to “waste” on love?

2. After listening to the Palm Sunday Gospel account of how his disciples fell asleep before Jesus was betrayed by Judas, Pope Francis asked himself and the crowd gathered in St. Peter’s Square these questions: “Has my life fallen asleep?” and “Am I like Pilate? When I see that the situation is difficult, do I wash my hands?” (Palm Sunday 4/13/2014)

*Are those hard questions? How do you answer them?*

**Christianity preaches the infinite worth of that which is seemingly worthless and the infinite worthlessness of that which is seemingly so valued.**

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer

## A MUSICAL LENTEN MEDITATION

UTube: Paul Simon Graceland,  
Google Graceland lyrics, or  
Google the Album Graceland, Paul Simon

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See also “**A Scriptural Way of the Cross for Lent 2015**”  
[www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

**Since we all come into the world with nothing, everything is a gift. Pray about that.**

Through the awful grace of God  
Even in our sleep  
Pain  
Which cannot forget  
Falls drop by drop  
Upon the heart  
And in our own despair,  
Against our will,  
Comes wisdom  
Through the awful grace of God



— Aeschylus