

April 9, 2017

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion Lectionary: 37 and 38

At the Procession with Palms — Gospel
[Mt 21:1-11](#)

When Jesus and the disciples drew near
Jerusalem
and came to Bethphage on the Mount of
Olives,
Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them,
"Go into the village opposite you,
and immediately you will find an ass
tethered,
and a colt with her.
Untie them and bring them here to me.
And if anyone should say anything to you,
reply,
'The master has need of them.'
Then he will send them at once."
This happened so that what had been spoken
through the prophet
might be fulfilled:
*Say to daughter Zion,
"Behold, your king comes to you,
meek and riding on an ass,
and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden."*
The disciples went and did as Jesus had
ordered them.
They brought the ass and the colt and laid
their cloaks over them,
and he sat upon them.
The very large crowd spread their cloaks on
the road,
while others cut branches from the trees
and strewed them on the road.
The crowds preceding him and those
following
kept crying out and saying:
"Hosanna to the Son of David;
blessed is the he who comes in the name of

the Lord;
hosanna in the highest."
And when he entered Jerusalem
the whole city was shaken and asked, "Who
is this?"
And the crowds replied,
"This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in
Galilee."

At the Mass — Reading 1 [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;
and I have not rebelled,
have not turned back.
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.

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.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24](#)

**R. (2a) My God, my God, why have you
abandoned me?**

All who see me scoff at me;
they mock me with parted lips, they wag
their heads:

"He relied on the LORD; let him deliver
him,
let him rescue him, if he loves him."

**R. My God, my God, why have you
abandoned me?**

Indeed, many dogs surround me,
a pack of evildoers closes in upon me;
They have pierced my hands and my feet;
I can count all my bones.

R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

They divide my garments among them,
and for my vesture they cast lots.

But you, O LORD, be not far from me;
O my help, hasten to aid me.

R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

I will proclaim your name to my brethren;
in the midst of the assembly I will praise
you:

"You who fear the LORD, praise him;
all you descendants of Jacob, give glory to
him;

revere him, all you descendants of Israel!"

R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Reading 2 [Phil 2:6-11](#)

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of
God,

did not regard equality with God
something to be grasped.

Rather, he emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
coming in human likeness;
and found human in appearance,

he humbled himself,
becoming obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.

Because of this, God greatly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name
which is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
of those in heaven and on earth and under
the earth,
and every tongue confess that
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Verse Before the Gospel [Phil 2:8-9](#)

Christ became obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.

Because of this, God greatly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name which is
above every name.

Gospel [Mt 26:14—27:66](#)

One of the Twelve, who was called Judas
Iscariot,

went to the chief priests and said,
"What are you willing to give me
if I hand him over to you?"

They paid him thirty pieces of silver,
and from that time on he looked for an
opportunity
to hand him over.

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened
Bread,

the disciples approached Jesus and said,
"Where do you want us to prepare
for you to eat the Passover?"

He said,

"Go into the city to a certain man and tell
him,

"The teacher says, "My appointed time draws
near;

in your house I shall celebrate the Passover
with my disciples.""

The disciples then did as Jesus had ordered,
and prepared the Passover.

When it was evening,
he reclined at table with the Twelve.

And while they were eating, he said,
"Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray
me."

Deeply distressed at this,
they began to say to him one after another,
"Surely it is not I, Lord?"

He said in reply,

"He who has dipped his hand into the dish
with me

is the one who will betray me.

The Son of Man indeed goes, as it is written
of him,

but woe to that man by whom the Son of

Man is betrayed.
It would be better for that man if he had
never been born."

Then Judas, his betrayer, said in reply,
"Surely it is not I, Rabbi?"
He answered, "You have said so."

While they were eating,
Jesus took bread, said the blessing,
broke it, and giving it to his disciples said,
"Take and eat; this is my body."
Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it
to them, saying,
"Drink from it, all of you,
for this is my blood of the covenant,
which will be shed on behalf of many
for the forgiveness of sins.
I tell you, from now on I shall not drink this
fruit of the vine
until the day when I drink it with you new
in the kingdom of my Father."
Then, after singing a hymn,
they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Then Jesus said to them,
"This night all of you will have your faith in
me shaken,
for it is written:
*I will strike the shepherd,
and the sheep of the flock will be dispersed;*
but after I have been raised up,
I shall go before you to Galilee."
Peter said to him in reply,
"Though all may have their faith in you
shaken,
mine will never be."
Jesus said to him,
"Amen, I say to you,
this very night before the cock crows,
you will deny me three times."
Peter said to him,
"Even though I should have to die with you,
I will not deny you."
And all the disciples spoke likewise.

Then Jesus came with them to a place called

Gethsemane,
and he said to his disciples,
"Sit here while I go over there and pray."
He took along Peter and the two sons of
Zebedee,
and began to feel sorrow and distress.
Then he said to them,
"My soul is sorrowful even to death.
Remain here and keep watch with me."
He advanced a little and fell prostrate in
prayer, saying,
"My Father, if it is possible,
let this cup pass from me;
yet, not as I will, but as you will."
When he returned to his disciples he found
them asleep.
He said to Peter,
"So you could not keep watch with me for
one hour?
Watch and pray that you may not undergo
the test.
The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."
Withdrawing a second time, he prayed
again,
"My Father, if it is not possible that this cup
pass
without my drinking it, your will be done!"
Then he returned once more and found them
asleep,
for they could not keep their eyes open.
He left them and withdrew again and prayed
a third time,
saying the same thing again.
Then he returned to his disciples and said to
them,
"Are you still sleeping and taking your rest?
Behold, the hour is at hand
when the Son of Man is to be handed over to
sinners.
Get up, let us go.
Look, my betrayer is at hand."

While he was still speaking,
Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived,
accompanied by a large crowd, with swords
and clubs,

who had come from the chief priests and the elders
of the people.

His betrayer had arranged a sign with them,
saying,

"The man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him."
Immediately he went over to Jesus and said,
"Hail, Rabbi!" and he kissed him.

Jesus answered him,

"Friend, do what you have come for."

Then stepping forward they laid hands on
Jesus and arrested him.

And behold, one of those who accompanied
Jesus

put his hand to his sword, drew it,
and struck the high priest's servant, cutting
off his ear.

Then Jesus said to him,

"Put your sword back into its sheath,
for all who take the sword will perish by the
sword.

Do you think that I cannot call upon my
Father

and he will not provide me at this moment
with more than twelve legions of angels?

But then how would the Scriptures be
fulfilled

which say that it must come to pass in this
way?"

At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

"Have you come out as against a robber,
with swords and clubs to seize me?

Day after day I sat teaching in the temple
area,

yet you did not arrest me.

But all this has come to pass

that the writings of the prophets may be
fulfilled."

Then all the disciples left him and fled.

Those who had arrested Jesus led him away
to Caiaphas the high priest,
where the scribes and the elders were
assembled.

Peter was following him at a distance
as far as the high priest's courtyard,

and going inside he sat down with the
servants

to see the outcome.

The chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin
kept trying to obtain false testimony against
Jesus

in order to put him to death,

but they found none,

though many false witnesses came forward.

Finally two came forward who stated,

"This man said, 'I can destroy the temple of
God

and within three days rebuild it.'"

The high priest rose and addressed him,

"Have you no answer?

What are these men testifying against you?"

But Jesus was silent.

Then the high priest said to him,

"I order you to tell us under oath before the
living God

whether you are the Christ, the Son of God."

Jesus said to him in reply,

"You have said so.

But I tell you:

From now on you will see 'the Son of Man
seated at the right hand of the Power'

and 'coming on the clouds of heaven.'"

Then the high priest tore his robes and said,

"He has blasphemed!

What further need have we of witnesses?

You have now heard the blasphemy;

what is your opinion?"

They said in reply,

"He deserves to die!"

Then they spat in his face and struck him,

while some slapped him, saying,

"Prophesy for us, Christ: who is it that
struck you?"

Now Peter was sitting outside in the
courtyard.

One of the maids came over to him and said,
"You too were with Jesus the Galilean."

But he denied it in front of everyone, saying,

"I do not know what you are talking about!"

As he went out to the gate, another girl saw

him
and said to those who were there,
"This man was with Jesus the Nazorean."
Again he denied it with an oath,
"I do not know the man!"
A little later the bystanders came over and
said to Peter,
"Surely you too are one of them;
even your speech gives you away."
At that he began to curse and to swear,
"I do not know the man."
And immediately a cock crowed.
Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus
had spoken:
"Before the cock crows you will deny me
three times."
He went out and began to weep bitterly.

When it was morning,
all the chief priests and the elders of the
people
took counsel against Jesus to put him to
death.
They bound him, led him away,
and handed him over to Pilate, the governor.

Then Judas, his betrayer, seeing that Jesus
had been condemned,
deeply regretted what he had done.
He returned the thirty pieces of silver
to the chief priests and elders, saying,
"I have sinned in betraying innocent blood."
They said,
"What is that to us?
Look to it yourself."
Flinging the money into the temple,
he departed and went off and hanged
himself.
The chief priests gathered up the money, but
said,
"It is not lawful to deposit this in the temple
treasury,
for it is the price of blood."
After consultation, they used it to buy the
potter's field
as a burial place for foreigners.

That is why that field even today is called
the Field of Blood.
Then was fulfilled what had been said
through Jeremiah
the prophet,
*And they took the thirty pieces of silver,
the value of a man with a price on his head,
a price set by some of the Israelites,
and they paid it out for the potter's field
just as the Lord had commanded me.*

Now Jesus stood before the governor, and he
questioned him,
"Are you the king of the Jews?"
Jesus said, "You say so."
And when he was accused by the chief
priests and elders,
he made no answer.
Then Pilate said to him,
"Do you not hear how many things they are
testifying against you?"
But he did not answer him one word,
so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now on the occasion of the feast
the governor was accustomed to release to
the crowd
one prisoner whom they wished.
And at that time they had a notorious
prisoner called Barabbas.
So when they had assembled, Pilate said to
them,
"Which one do you want me to release to
you,
Barabbas, or Jesus called Christ?"
For he knew that it was out of envy
that they had handed him over.
While he was still seated on the bench,
his wife sent him a message,
"Have nothing to do with that righteous
man.
I suffered much in a dream today because of
him."
The chief priests and the elders persuaded
the crowds
to ask for Barabbas but to destroy Jesus.

The governor said to them in reply,
"Which of the two do you want me to
release to you?"
They answered, "Barabbas!"
Pilate said to them,
"Then what shall I do with Jesus called
Christ?"
They all said,
"Let him be crucified!"
But he said,
"Why? What evil has he done?"
They only shouted the louder,
"Let him be crucified!"
When Pilate saw that he was not succeeding
at all,
but that a riot was breaking out instead,
he took water and washed his hands in the
sight of the crowd,
saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood.
Look to it yourselves."
And the whole people said in reply,
"His blood be upon us and upon our
children."
Then he released Barabbas to them,
but after he had Jesus scourged,
he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus
inside the praetorium
and gathered the whole cohort around him.
They stripped off his clothes
and threw a scarlet military cloak about him.
Weaving a crown out of thorns, they placed
it on his head,
and a reed in his right hand.
And kneeling before him, they mocked him,
saying,
"Hail, King of the Jews!"
They spat upon him and took the reed
and kept striking him on the head.
And when they had mocked him,
they stripped him of the cloak,
dressed him in his own clothes,
and led him off to crucify him.

As they were going out, they met a Cyrenian

named Simon;
this man they pressed into service
to carry his cross.

And when they came to a place called
Golgotha
—which means Place of the Skull —,
they gave Jesus wine to drink mixed with
gall.
But when he had tasted it, he refused to
drink.
After they had crucified him,
they divided his garments by casting lots;
then they sat down and kept watch over him
there.
And they placed over his head the written
charge against him:
This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.
Two revolutionaries were crucified with
him,
one on his right and the other on his left.
Those passing by reviled him, shaking their
heads and saying,
"You who would destroy the temple and
rebuild it in three days,
save yourself, if you are the Son of God,
and come down from the cross!"
Likewise the chief priests with the scribes
and elders mocked him and said,
"He saved others; he cannot save himself.
So he is the king of Israel!
Let him come down from the cross now,
and we will believe in him.
He trusted in God;
let him deliver him now if he wants him.
For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'"
The revolutionaries who were crucified with
him
also kept abusing him in the same way.

From noon onward, darkness came over the
whole land
until three in the afternoon.
And about three o'clock Jesus cried out in a
loud voice,
"Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?"

which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
Some of the bystanders who heard it said,
"This one is calling for Elijah."
Immediately one of them ran to get a sponge;
he soaked it in wine, and putting it on a reed,
gave it to him to drink.
But the rest said,
"Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to save him."
But Jesus cried out again in a loud voice,
and gave up his spirit.

Here all kneel and pause for a short time.

And behold, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom.
The earth quaked, rocks were split, tombs were opened,
and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised.
And coming forth from their tombs after his resurrection,
they entered the holy city and appeared to many.
The centurion and the men with him who were keeping watch over Jesus feared greatly when they saw the earthquake and all that was happening, and they said,
"Truly, this was the Son of God!"
There were many women there, looking on from a distance,
who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him.
Among them were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

When it was evening,
there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph,
who was himself a disciple of Jesus.
He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus;
then Pilate ordered it to be handed over.

Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in clean linen
and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock.
Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb
and departed.
But Mary Magdalene and the other Mary remained sitting there, facing the tomb.

The next day, the one following the day of preparation,
the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,
"Sir, we remember that this impostor while still alive said,
'After three days I will be raised up.'
Give orders, then, that the grave be secured until the third day,
lest his disciples come and steal him and say to the people,
'He has been raised from the dead.'
This last imposture would be worse than the first."
Pilate said to them,
"The guard is yours;
go, secure it as best you can."
So they went and secured the tomb by fixing a seal to the stone and setting the guard.