

*We Respond*

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**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** (or a hymn) Six days before the Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they carried palm branches and with a loud voice cried out: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy! O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory. Who is this king of glory? He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** (Ps 21)

**ANTIPHON:** My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

**RESPONSE:** My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

**LECTOR:** All who see me deride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads. "He trusted in the Lord, let him save him; let him release him if this is his friend." **R.**

**LECTOR:** Many dogs have surrounded me, a band of the wicked beset me. They tear holes in my hands and my feet. I can count every one of my bones. **R.**

**LECTOR:** They divide my clothing among them. They cast lots for my robe. O Lord, do not leave me alone, my strength, make haste to help me! **R.**

**LECTOR:** I will tell of your name to my brethren and praise you where they are assembled. "You who fear the Lord, give him praise; all sons of Jacob, give him glory. Revere him, Israel's sons." **R.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** (or a hymn) Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.

**TODAY'S READINGS** Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Luke 22:14 – 23:56

**NEXT WEEK** (Easter, Year C) Acts 10:34, 37-43; Psalm 117; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-9

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*Evil doesn't  
have the last  
word*



10 April 2022 Palm Sunday Year C

Soon after a refugee family moved into their new home, they became victims of racial abuse. One morning, as Fariza left the house to walk her two young children to school, they were confronted by a rowdy mob waving placards, shouting obscenities and smearing the house and front fence with hate-filled graffiti.

The encounter sent a wave of fear and panic through Fariza. Her frightened and confused children didn't understand what was happening. This was supposed to be a new start for the family; free of the violence and mayhem from which they had fled.

As news of the despicable racial crime spread, the local community rallied in support of Fariza and her family. An elderly couple from the down the street arrived carrying paint, brushes and buckets and offered to remove the graffiti. Soapy water, sandpaper and paint soon obliterated the offensive words and images and a new friendship developed.

A steady stream of concerned well-wishers and neighbours came by. One family brought food. A young couple gifted flowers and pot-plants. Teachers from the school arrived with toys for the children. Civic, police and faith leaders visited, offering support and assistance.

Fariza said, "The day ended so differently from the way it began." The community's bold and compassionate response, broke the power of hatred and evil. The locals took something ugly and made it beautiful. They

transformed bigotry and exclusion into love and welcome.

The story of Jesus' Passion also ends very differently from the way it begins. As Jesus enters Jerusalem, there is praise and excitement as the crowd wave their triumphant branches and proclaim their blessings. But, it's not very long till praise turns to blood-thirsty shouts of "Crucify him!" Jesus is betrayed and deserted by many. He's treated like a common criminal; mocked, beaten and murdered on a cross.

Yet, God takes an ugly, hopeless situation and transforms it. Jesus' Passion and death become the revelation of God's unconditional faithfulness, compassion and love. Jesus, the Suffering Servant, who is utterly faithful to God's purpose for him, resists and breaks through evil and reveals a God of intimacy and relationship; forever bonded to humanity by a new and everlasting covenant in Jesus.

Jesus' suffering and death for our sake, changes and transforms. Our lives are not to be surrendered to the power and domination of 'today's rowdy mobs'. Rather, the 'good news' is that life is to be lived to the full, in communion with the Risen Christ.

Passion/Palm Sunday spurs us to action, for we glimpse the victory of love and life over hatred and death. Evil, injustice, violence and death don't have the last word. For the way things begin is not the way they will end.

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