

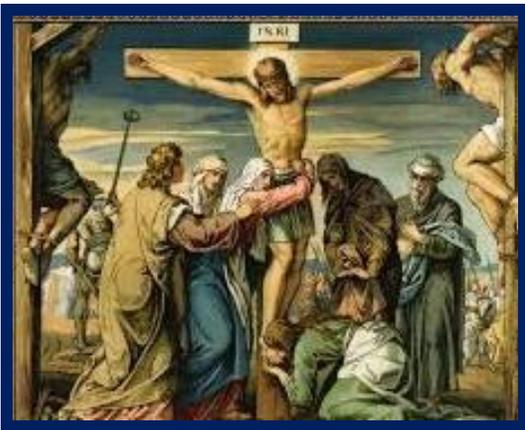
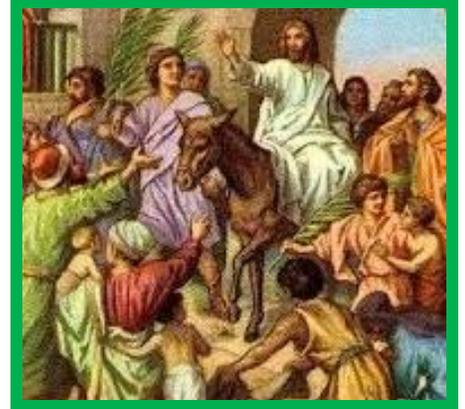
Reflection: Palm Sunday of the Passion

READINGS: Mark 11: 1-10

Isaiah 50: 4-7 Psalm 22: 8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 Philippians 2: 6-11 Mark 14: 1 – 15: 47

REFLECTION:

Humanity is so fickle and this is clearly evident during this final week of Lent. On Sunday, Jesus is adored, with the crowds elated. On Friday, Jesus is condemned, the people screaming for his death! A good question to ponder: What part of each person is in control in these scenes? The head? The heart? Or neither?! Seems that mob psychology is unmistakably on display. How very sad! And then we look at Jesus who accepts each experience with the same humility and presence. His integrity in the midst of the highest and lowest events of his life is striking! These same attributes were modeled by Vincent de Paul. No matter who was around, persons rich or poor, he was always Monsieur Vincent.



Pope Francis in a homily (April 23, 2013) stated, “The Church always advances between the cross and the resurrection ... This is the path; those who take this path do not go wrong.” Jesus certainly modeled this way of suffering into new life for us. We name this the “Paschal Mystery” and witness it plainly during Holy Week, starting with Palm Sunday, through Good Friday, into the glory of Easter. Undoubtedly, each of us experience this same dynamic in our daily lives. In the midst of these ups and downs, we are invited to grow into our *real* Selves, God-in-us, as we strive to become humble, simple, genuine people of truth and integrity.

PRAYER: Dear Jesus, you showed us how to live in authenticity and love. Grace me to follow your example, imitating your peaceful acceptance of the people and the circumstances that come into my life. Free me from my need for approval, from the whims of human nature and public opinion, the desire to appear different than I am created to be. Open my heart and mind in honesty so I may act in accord with my beliefs and ideals. I rely on your Spirit to transform me into all you intend me to become. In your name, I pray all this, through the intercession of St. Vincent de Paul, our founder. Amen.



TRY THIS TODAY: Sit in God’s presence, with a crucifix in hand, and sincerely ponder:

- ✚ *When have I followed the crowd, jumped on the “bandwagon,” rather than living by my truth and values?*
- ✚ *Do I long to grow into my real Self, a person who is the same inside and out? How can I move toward this goal?*
- ✚ *How do the examples of Jesus and Vincent invite me to be a woman of integrity and care, especially with persons living in poverty?*