

## **PALM SUNDAY, April 9, 2017**

*“With the heralded entry into Jerusalem, Christ perfects our salvation”*

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Readings: Isaiah 50: 4-7; Psalm 22: 8-9,17-18,19-20, 23-24; Philippians 2:6-11; Gospel Matthew 26:14-27:66

*“Who is this that rides into Jerusalem? He is the son of Joseph and the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.” Matthew 21: 10-11*

### **REFLECTION:**

Isaiah's message speaks to the human side of Jesus describing the gifts that he has been given by the Father. It also describes what is in store for Jesus as he faces those who fear Him. The Psalms then shout out Christ's human nature as He struggles with the pain of our sins. Philippians reminds us that Jesus became man and slave in His human nature. Jesus Christ was born, raised and walked the earth as our human brother, showing us how to live, how to endure, how to forgive and how to die. Listening to the Passion being read in today's gospel awakens in us the feeling of sorrow realizing that our sins lead to this amazing sacrifice of the human nature of the son of God. It is a reminder of God's love for us that we need to savor in our hearts and minds as we struggle with life's challenges amid life's joys and sorrow, relying on God to guide and inspire us as we strive to live faith-filled lives each day. Let us hold our palm high as a sign of welcoming Jesus and as a sign that we too during this Holy Week will walk with Him side by side as He gives His life for all mankind. "Through the obedience of the one, the many will be made righteous." Romans 5:19

### **PRAYER:**

Jesus, through your suffering and death you have shown us the way to eternal life. Let us always carry our cross with dignity and love of our fellow man. Let us be the way, the truth and the fulfillment of the love you shared during your ministry here on earth. Thank you Lord for the love and mercy you poured out for me by your death on the cross.

### **Try This Today:**

Open your mind and heart while you listen to the story of Jesus' passion and death. Use your imagination in prayer as you journey with Christ. While pondering the words of today's gospel let your imagination take you with Him on His journey to Calvary. Saints Ignatius Loyola and Teresa of Avila taught that using our imagination in prayer will help us to grow in faith.