聖枝主日

他貶抑自己,聽命至死,且死在十字架上。~ 斐理伯書 2:8

讀經一(對於侮辱和唾污,我沒有遮掩我的面,因為我知道我不會受辱。) 恭**讀依撒意亞先知書** 50:4-7

我主上主賜給了我受教的口舌,叫我會用言語,來援助疲倦的人。 他每天清晨喚醒我,喚醒我的耳朵,叫我如同學生一樣靜聽。我主上 主開啟了我的耳朵。

我並沒有違抗,也沒有退避。我將我背,轉給打擊我的人;把我的腮,轉給扯我鬍鬚的人;對於侮辱和唾污,我沒有遮掩我的面。 因為,我主上主協助我,因此,我不怕蒙羞;所以,我板著臉,像一塊燧石,因為我知道:我決不會受辱。——上主的話。

答唱詠 詠22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24

【答】:我的天主,我的天主,你為什麼捨棄了我?(詠22:2)

領:凡看見我的人都譏笑我;他們都撇著嘴,搖著頭說:「他既信賴 上主,上主就應救他;上主既喜愛他,也就該拯救他。」【答】

領:成群惡犬圍困著我;大批歹徒環繞著我。他們穿透了我的手腳; 我的骨骼莖莖可數。【答】

領:他們瓜分了我的衣服;為我的長衣,他們拈闥。上主!請不要遠離我;我的勇力,請速來扶助我。【答】

領:我要向我的弟兄,宣揚你的聖名;在盛大的集會中,讚美歌頌你: 「你們敬畏上主的人,請讚美上主;雅各伯所有的後裔,請光榮 上主;以色列的一切子孫,請敬畏上主!」【答】

讀經二(耶穌貶抑自己,為此,天主極其舉揚他。) 恭讀聖保祿宗徒致斐理伯人書 2:6-11

弟兄姊妹們:

耶穌雖具有天主的形體,並沒有以自己與天主同等,為應當把持不捨的,卻使自己空虛,取了奴僕的形體,與人相似,形狀也一見如人;他貶抑自己,聽命至死,且死在十字架上。為此,天主極其舉揚他,賜給了他一個名字,超越其他所有名字,致使上天、地上和地下的一切,一聽到耶穌的名字,無不屈膝叩拜;一切唇舌,無不明認耶穌基督是主,以光榮天主聖父。——上主的話。

福音前歡呼

領:耶穌貶抑自己,聽命至死,且死在十字架上。為此,天主極其舉 揚他,賜給了他一個名字,超越其他所有的名字。(斐2:8-9)

眾:基督,願光榮和讚頌歸於你!

福音

馬爾谷所載主耶穌基督的受難始末 14:1-15:47

(他們設法用詭計捉拿耶穌,要殺害他。)

敘述: 逾越節和無酵節的前兩天,司祭長和經師設法用詭計捉拿 耶穌,要殺害他;他們說:

群眾:「不要在慶節內,怕民間發生暴動。」

(她提前傅抹了我的身體,是為安葬之事。)

敘述:當耶穌在伯達尼痳瘋病人西滿家裡,正吃飯的時候,來了一個女人,拿著一玉瓶珍貴的純「納爾多」香液。那女人打破玉瓶,把香液倒在耶穌頭上。有些人頗不滿意,就彼此說:

群眾:「為什麼要這樣浪費香液?這香液原可以賣三百多塊銀錢,施捨給窮人!」

敘述:他們對那女人很生氣。耶穌卻說:

耶穌:「由她吧!你們為什麼叫她難受呢?她在我身上做了一件好事;因為你們常有窮人同你們在一起,你們幾時願意,都可以給他們行善;但是我,你們卻不常有。她已做了她能做的:提前傅抹了我的身體,是為安葬之事。我實在告訴你們:將來福音無論傳到全世界什麼地方,必要傳述她所做的事,來紀念她。」

(他們答應給猶達斯銀錢)

敘述:於是,那十二人之一,猶達斯依斯加略,去見司祭長,要 把耶穌交給他們。他們聽了以後,不勝歡喜,答應給他銀錢;他就尋 找機會,將耶穌交出。

(我同我的門徒,吃逾越節晚餐的客廳在那裡?)

敘述:無酵節的第一天,即宰殺逾越節羔羊的那一天,門徒對耶 穌說:

門徒:「你願意我們到那裡,給你預備吃逾越節晚餐?」

敘述:耶穌就打發兩個門徒,對他們說:

耶穌:「你們往城裡去,必有一個拿著水罐的人,迎面而來,你們就跟著他走;他無論進入那裡,你們就對那家主說:師父問:我同我的門徒,吃逾越節晚餐的客廳在那裡?他必指給你們一間舖設好的寬大樓廳,你們就在那裡,為我們預備吧!」

敘述:門徒去了,來到城裡,所遇見的,正如耶穌給他們所說的; 他們就預備了逾越節晚餐。

(你們中有一個,與我同席的,要負賣我。)

敘述:到了晚上,耶穌同那十二人來了。他們坐下吃飯時,耶穌 說: 耶穌:「我實在告訴你們:你們中有一個,與我同席的,要負賣我。」

敘述:門徒就都憂悶起來,一個一個的問耶穌說:

門徒:「難道是我嗎?」 敘述:耶穌對他們說:

耶穌:「是十二人中的一個,同我一起在盤子裡蘸手的那個。人子固然要按照指著他所寫的而去,但是負賣人子的那人,是有禍的!那人若沒有生,為他更好。」

(這是我的身體。這是我的血;盟約之血。)

敘述:他們正吃的時候,耶穌拿起餅來,祝福了,擘開,遞給他們說:

耶穌:「你們拿去吃吧!這是我的身體。」

敘述:耶穌又拿起杯來,祝謝了,遞給他們;他們都從那杯喝了。 耶穌對他們說:

耶穌:「這是我的血,盟約的血,為大眾而傾流的。我實在告訴你們:我決不再喝這葡萄汁了,直到我在天主的國裡,喝新酒的那天。」

(雞叫兩遍以前,你要三次不認我。)

敘述:耶穌和門徒唱完聖詠,就出來,往橄欖山去。

耶穌對門徒說:

耶穌:「你們都要跌倒,因為有記載說:『我要打擊牧人,羊群就要四散。』但我復活後,要在你們以先,到加里肋亞去。」

敘述:伯多祿對耶穌說:

伯多祿:「即使眾人都要跌倒,我也不會。」

敘述:耶穌就向伯多祿說:

耶穌:「我實在告訴你:就在今天夜裡,雞叫兩遍以前,你要三次不認我。」

敘述:伯多祿更加激烈地說:

伯多祿:「即使我必須同你一起死,我也決不會不認你。」

敘述: 眾人也都這樣說了。

(耶穌開始驚懼恐怖)

敘述:他們來到一個名叫革責瑪尼的莊園裡;耶穌對門徒說:

耶穌:「你們坐在這裡,等我去祈禱。」

敘述:耶穌於是帶了伯多祿、雅各伯和若望同去;耶穌開始驚懼 恐怖,便對他們說:

耶穌:「我的心靈悲傷得要死;你們留在這裡,且要醒寤。」

敘述:耶穌往前走了不遠,就俯伏在地祈求:如果可能,使這時 辰離他而去;耶穌說: 耶穌:「阿爸!父啊!一切為你都可能;請免去我這杯吧!但是,不要照我的意願,而要照你所願意的。」

敘述:耶穌回來,見他們睡著了,就對伯多祿說:

耶穌:「西滿!你睡覺嗎?你不能醒寤一個時辰嗎?你們醒寤祈禱吧!免陷於誘惑。心神固然切願,但肉身卻軟弱。」

敘述:耶穌又去祈禱,說了同樣的話。耶穌又回來,見他們仍然 睡著,因為他們的眼睛沉重,也不知道要怎樣回答耶穌。

耶穌第三次回來,對他們說:

耶穌:「你們還睡下去嗎?還休息嗎?夠了!時辰到了,看,人子就要被交付在罪人手裡。起來!我們去吧!看,那負賣我的,來了。」

(你們捉住他,小心帶走。)

敘述:耶穌還在說話的時候,那十二人之一的猶達斯,也就到了; 同他一起的,還有帶著刀劍棍棒的群眾,是由司祭長、經師和長老派 來的。那出賣耶穌的人,曾給他們一個暗號說:

猶達斯:「我口親誰,誰就是;你們捉住他,小心帶走。」

敘述:猶達斯一來,便立刻到耶穌面前說:

猶達斯:「辣彼!」

敘述:於是,猶達斯口親了耶穌。他們就向耶穌下手,捉住了他。 站在旁邊的人之中,有一個拔出劍來,砍了大司祭僕人一劍,削 下他的一個耳朵。

耶穌開口對他們說:

耶穌:「你們帶著刀劍棍棒,出來捉拿我,如同對付強盜一樣; 我天天在你們當中,在聖殿裡施教,你們卻沒有捉拿我;但這是為應 驗經上的話。」

敘述:門徒都撇下耶穌,逃跑了。

那時,有一個少年人,赤身披著一塊麻布,跟隨耶穌。 人們就抓住了那少年人;但他撇下麻布,赤身逃走了。

(你是默西亞,那應受讚頌者的兒子嗎?)

敘述:他們把耶穌帶到大司祭那裡,所有司祭長、長老和經師, 也都聚集在那裡。

伯多祿遠遠的跟著耶穌,直到大司祭的庭院裡面,同差役們坐在 一起,烤火取暖。

敘述:司祭長和全體公議會,尋找控告耶穌的證據,好把他處死, 卻沒有找到。原來有許多人,捏造假證據控告耶穌,但那些證據,各 不相符。有幾個人站起來,作假見證,控告耶穌說:

群眾:「我們曾聽他說過:我要拆毀這座用人手建造的聖殿,三天內,要另建一座非人手所造的。」

敘述:連他們這個證據,也不相符合。

於是,大司祭起來,站在中間,問耶穌說:

大司祭:「這些人作證控告你的事,你什麼也不回答嗎?」

敘述:耶穌默不作聲,什麼也不回答。

大司祭又問耶穌說:

大司祭:「你是默西亞,那應受讚頌者的兒子嗎?」

敘述:耶穌說:

耶穌:「我是,並且你們要看見人子,坐在大能者的右邊,乘著 天上的雲彩降來。」

敘述:大司祭於是撕裂自己的衣服,說:

大司祭:「何必還需要見證呢?你們都聽見這褻瀆的話了,你們看!該怎辦?」

敘述: 眾人都判耶穌該死。有些人就開始向他吐唾沫,蒙住他的臉,用拳頭打他,對他說:

群眾:「你猜是誰吧!」

敘述:差役且用巴掌打他。

(我不認識你們說的這個人)

敘述:伯多祿在下邊庭院;來了一個大司祭的使女,看見伯多祿 烤火,就注視他,說:

使女:「你也是和那個納匝肋人耶穌一起的。」

敘述:伯多祿卻否認說:

伯多禄:「我不知道,也不明白你說什麼。」

敘述:伯多祿於是走出去,到了門廊,雞就叫了。

那使女看見伯多祿,就又對站在旁邊的人說:

使女:「這人是和他們一起的。」

敘述:伯多祿又否認了。

過了一會兒,站在旁邊的人,又再對伯多祿說:

群眾:「你的確是和他們一起的,因為你也是個加里肋亞人。」

敘述:伯多祿就開始詛咒,並發誓說:

伯多祿:「我不認識你們說的這個人。」

敘述:立刻雞就叫了第二遍。

伯多祿於是想起耶穌對他所說的話:「雞叫兩遍以前,你要三次不認我。」就放聲大哭起來。

(你們願意我給你們釋放猶太人的君王嗎)

敘述:到了清晨,司祭長、長老及經師,和全體公議會,商討完 畢,就把耶穌捆綁起來,解送給比拉多。

比拉多問耶穌說:

比拉多:「你是猶太人的君王嗎?」

敘述:耶穌回答說:

耶穌:「你說的是。」

敘述:司祭長控告耶穌許多事;比拉多又問耶穌說:

比拉多:「你看,他們控告你這麼多的事,你什麼都不回答嗎?」

敘述:耶穌仍然沒有回答什麼,以致比拉多大為驚異。

每逢節日,總督慣常給民眾釋放一個他們所要求的囚犯。當時, 有一個名叫巴辣巴的,他是與那些在暴動中殺人的暴徒,一同被囚的。 群眾上去,要求按慣例給他們辦理。比拉多回答他們說:

比拉多:「你們願意我給你們釋放猶太人的君王嗎?」

敘述:比拉多原知道司祭長是由於嫉妒,才把耶穌解送來的。

但是,司祭長卻煽動群眾,寧要給他們釋放巴辣巴。比拉多又向他們說:

比拉多:「那麼,對你們所稱的猶太人君王,我可怎麼辦呢?」

敘述:群眾又喊說:

群眾:「釘他在十字架上!」

敘述:比拉多對他們說:

比拉多:「他做了什麼惡事?」

敘述:他們越發喊說:

群眾:「釘他在十字架上!」

敘述:比拉多願意滿足群眾,就給他們釋放了巴辣巴,把耶穌鞭 打後,交給他們,釘在十字架上。

(編了一個茨冠,給他戴上。)

敘述:兵士把耶穌帶到庭院裡面,即總督府內,把全隊叫齊,給 耶穌穿上紫紅袍,編了一個茨冠,給他戴上,開始向他致敬說:「猶 太人的君王,萬歲!」然後用一根蘆葦,敲他的頭,向他吐唾沫,屈 膝朝拜他。

兵士戲弄了耶穌之後,就給他脫去紫紅袍,給他穿上他自己的衣服,然後帶他出去,把他釘在十字架上。

(他們把耶穌帶到哥耳哥達地方)

敘述:有一個基勒乃人西滿,是亞歷山大和魯富的父親,他從田 間來,正路過那裡;他們就強迫他背耶穌的十字架。

他們將耶穌帶到哥耳哥達,解說「髑髏」的地方。

(他被列於叛逆者之中)

敘述:他們就拿沒藥調和的酒,給耶穌喝,耶穌卻沒有接受。

他們就將耶穌釘在十字架上,並把他的衣服分開,拈闥,看誰得 什麼。

他們把耶穌釘在十字架上時,正是第三時辰。他的罪狀牌上寫的 是:「猶太人的君王。」

與耶穌一起,還釘了兩個強盜:一個在他右邊,一個在他左邊。 【這就應驗了經上所說的:『他被列於叛逆者之中。』】

(他救了別人,卻不能救自己!)

敘述:路過的人都侮辱耶穌,搖著頭說:

群眾:「哇!你這拆毀聖殿,三天內重建起來的,你從十字架上下來,救你自己吧!」

敘述:同樣,司祭長與經師也譏笑他,彼此說:

群眾:「他救了別人,卻不能救自己!默西亞,以色列的君王! 現在從十字架上下來吧,叫我們看了,好相信!」

敘述:連與他一起, 釘在十字架上的人, 也辱罵他。

(耶穌大喊一聲,就呼出了最後一口氣。)

敘述:到了第六時辰,遍地昏黑,直到第九時辰。

在第九時辰,耶穌大聲呼號說:

耶穌:「厄羅依,厄羅依,肋瑪撒巴黑塔尼?」

敘述:意思是:

耶穌:「我的天主,我的天主,你為什麼捨棄了我?」

敘述:旁邊站著的人,有的聽見了,就說:

群眾:「看,他呼喚厄里亞呢!」

敘述:有一個人就跑過去,把海綿浸滿了醋,綁在蘆葦上,遞給 他喝,說:

群眾:「等一等,我們看,是否厄里亞來將他卸下。」

敘述:耶穌大喊一聲,就呼出了最後一口氣。

跪下默禱片刻

敘述: 聖所裡的帳幔,從上到下,分裂為二。

站在十字架對面的百夫長,看見耶穌這樣斷了氣,就說:

群眾:「這人真是天主子!」

敘述:還有一些婦女從遠處觀望,其中有瑪利亞瑪達肋納,次雅 各伯和若瑟的母親瑪利亞,及撒羅默。她們當耶穌在加里肋亞時,就 跟隨了他,服事他;還有其他許多與耶穌一同上耶路撒冷的婦女。

(滾來一塊石頭, 堵住墳墓門口。)

敘述:到了傍晚,因為是預備日,就是安息日的前一天,來了一個阿黎瑪特雅人若瑟,他是一位顯貴的議員,也是期待天國的人。他大膽地進見比拉多,要求領取耶穌的遺體。比拉多驚異耶穌已經死了,於是叫百夫長來,問他耶穌是否已死。既從百夫長口中,得知了實情,就把屍體交給了若瑟。

若瑟買了殮布,把耶穌卸下來,用殮布裹好,把他安放在巖石中 鑿成的墳墓裡;然後滾來一塊石頭,堵住墳墓門口。

那時,瑪利亞瑪達肋納,及若瑟的母親瑪利亞,留心觀看安放耶 穌的地方。

——上主的話。

領主詠

我父,如果不能免去這杯,非要我喝不可,就成就你的意願吧!

背十字架的門徒

吳智勳神父

http://www.catholic.org.tw/theology/public/liyi/utility_eucharist_Lent1_
yearB.html

默想

每一位福音作者寫耶穌受難史都有其特色,馬爾谷的特色就 是,他把耶穌描述得非常悲哀、悽慘、孤獨。他的訊息是:基督必須 經過十字架的痛苦才帶來救贖,而基督徒也必須像他們的師父(基 督)一樣背十字架,才會帶來救恩。

在去山園路上,耶穌一開口就說:「你們全部會跌倒」,祂先預言自己會孤獨地承受苦難。伯多祿的誇口,只換來耶穌預言三次不忠的否認。伯多祿激動的回答及眾人的反應,更襯托出人的不可靠。整個受難史都指出,祂要孤獨地背十字架,孤伶伶地死去。

在山園中,耶穌曾表達祂的感受:「我的心靈悲傷得要死」。祂 來回三次要求門徒醒寤,但沒有一個能夠醒著。祂兩次要求天父,但 連天父也沒有回音,祂獨自一人面對捉拿祂的人。門徒看見來勢洶洶 的人都嚇得跑了,馬爾谷還記載有一少年被人捉住,但他脫下麻布, 赤身逃走。門徒們最初拋下一切,跟隨耶穌;現在最後一個門徒亦丢 下一切,赤身離棄耶穌。這是門徒的悲哀。

在公議會的審訊當中,他們找證據控告祂,不是找不著,便是互相矛盾。最後捏造的證據又非常笨拙,他們用耶穌的話去控告祂:「我要拆毀人手造的聖殿,三日內另建一非人手造的」。耶穌本是另有所指,但就算耶穌真的這樣表達又有甚麼錯誤,足以處死?耶穌只好緘默,真理以緘默去襯托出謊言的荒謬,因為爭辯是無用的。

作為大司祭,猶太人的領袖、天人之間的橋樑,竟然不懂耶穌說話的意思。他不接受耶穌就是要來審判世界的那一位。大司祭沒有帶人去接納承認耶穌,反而帶領眾人,逼人判耶穌死罪。這位應該帶領人去崇拜天主的人,現在卻帶領人離開天主。公議會的人都是有地位、有尊嚴、有學問的領袖,現在全變成市井流氓,向耶穌吐唾沫,用拳打祂,這是民族的悲哀。

伯多祿,十二宗徒之長,耶穌親自選定作為教會磐石的那一位,他三次不認耶穌。細心看馬爾谷的描述,他強調伯多祿最後用發誓詛咒為求脫身,而他詛咒的竟是耶穌!的確,連他也詛咒耶穌,實在令耶穌悲傷。伯多祿以詛咒來求脫身,徹底喪盡門徒的身份,連他自己也羞愧得哭起來。正因為此,他是所有曾跌倒,否認過耶穌的人的希望。

馬爾谷記載有關比拉多審耶穌比其他福音簡單,比拉多無意釋放

耶穌,只一味討好群眾。他最後的一句話代表了整件事的無理:「祂犯了甚麼罪!」既然找不到罪狀,仍然順從群眾的要求去處死耶穌!連一般司法的公義都得不到,這是制度的悲哀,而羅馬人是以法律著名的。

整個苦路上,沒有門徒跟著,沒有婦女為祂痛哭,十字架下沒有一個自己的人。祂在十字架上時有三批人辱罵祂:過路的人、司祭長和經師、一齊被釘的罪犯,他們沒有一個人向耶穌表示同情。連大自然也變色,由中午12時到下午3時,天地昏黑,馬爾谷只記載耶穌講一句話:「我的天主,我的天主,称為甚麼捨棄我?」人捨棄祂,天地捨棄祂,連天主也好像捨棄祂,最後祂大聲呼喊而死!

耶穌孤獨的走完十字架的苦路,不過祂立刻得到平反:聖所帳幔分裂為二,表示天主對猶太當權的不滿,因大司祭曾撕裂自己衣服;有份釘死祂的百夫長感動地說:「這人真是天主子!」婦女與若瑟出現領取耶穌的遺體。

馬爾谷要我們緊記一個訊息:透過十字架,耶穌完成祂的使命,每一個基督徒,無可逃避的要經過十字架,才能得到救恩。為那時受迫害的基督徒是極大的安慰,讓我們也把握馬爾谷的訊息:甘願背十字架的才算是耶穌的門徒。

反省與實踐:

- 1. 當耶穌面對荒謬的謊言時,祂用什麼方式回應?為何爭辯是無用的呢?
- 2. 當耶穌被吐唾沫、被拳腳打踢、被打耳光時,即使曾經對祂說禰 是默西亞的伯多祿都不認祂了。想一想,當你四周有人備受屈辱 時,你是避之唯恐不及呢?還是寧願冒著被嘲笑的危險,也不讓 他獨自受辱?
- 3. 甘願背十字架的才算是耶穌的門徒,讓我們在日常生活中,不逃避走十字架的苦路,使我們能得到救恩。

禱文:

- 1. 請為生病或遭受痛苦的基督徒祈禱。仁慈的天主,求禰幫助他們 在十字架上受苦的耶穌身上,體驗到天主的愛與永恆的盼望,使 他們的痛苦成為一條歸向天主的信德道路。
- 2. 請繼續為候洗者祈禱。願他們能藉著耶穌在十字架上的苦難,更深地體會到天主逾越的奧蹟;懇求天主幫助他們渡過各種考驗與挑戰,使他們為聖洗聖事做好一切準備。

和平君王來啦!

薛恩博樞機 著 丁穎達教授 譯

默想:

經過長途跋涉,第一眼看到朝聖地地標時的喜不自禁,是朝聖者們共通的感覺。在西班牙的聖地牙哥·德孔波斯特拉,朝聖者看到目的地的地點叫作「喜樂山」。任何徒步行走數百里前來朝聖的人,都會經歷這種刻骨銘心的喜樂。同樣,在奧地利的瑪利亞采爾,我們步行三、四天後,當聖母聖殿的鐘樓終於映入眼簾的那一刻,也會為我們帶來狂喜。

去耶路撒冷朝聖的人,在登上橄欖山山頂時,會感受到相同的 欣喜。霎那間,耶路撒冷全城,尤其是那美輪美奂的聖殿,盡收眼 底。今天,聖殿的原址上,矗立著金色的「巖上圓頂」清真寺。那裡 是耶穌從小到大朝聖的必經之路,祂會與同行的朝聖者們在山頂駐足 片刻,高唱聖詠,抒發喜樂。

這一次可不同,耶穌親自為祂榮進耶路撒冷設計好既定的腳本。祂還派人為祂牽來一匹驢駒。雖然耶穌的門徒們已經看過、聽過許多頗為驚奇的事,但是祂確切預知門徒們在哪裡能找到祂要借用的驢駒、而且每件事都發生的如祂所預言,確實令人嘖嘖稱奇。幾天之後一切真會發生:耶穌被逮捕、定罪、拷打、釘在十字架上,正如祂曾好幾次親口預言的那樣。但是,那並不是結局;三天之後,祂還要從死者中復活。

耶穌為甚麼偏偏選擇騎驢呢?為甚麼不像其它時候步行呢?為 甚麼不騎上「高頭大馬」,跟那些付得起錢的闊佬或羅馬人一樣呢? 這是一個明確的記號,有位先知曾經預言過:「熙雍女子,妳應儘量 喜樂!.....看,妳的君王到妳這裡來,祂是正義的,勝利的,謙遜 的,騎在驢上,騎在驢駒上。......祂要向萬民宣佈和平,祂的權柄 由這海到那海,從大河直達地極。」(匝九 9~10)那期盼已久的和 平君王、默西亞,將(像先知所預言的)結束戰爭、重建達味王國。

耶穌十分簡明扼要地宣佈:祂就是人民所期待的那一位。祂不是耀武揚威地進入自己的王城耶路撒冷,而只是騎在一匹驢上。那時所有的希望都寄託在祂身上,所以我們不難瞭解人民為甚麼欣喜若狂地迎接祂。我們也可想而知為甚麼由此引發的失望會迅速瀰漫。因為耶穌不是要來建立一個新的政治王國,而是建立天主的王國。相當多的人無法接受,失望很快演變成憤怒。在苦難日上,他們將高喊:「釘死祂!」

耶穌來,不是來差遣人做甚麼,或者要壓倒他們。祂尋求的, 不是甚麼政治勢力,而是要贏取人們的心。祂以謙卑的姿態進入耶路 撒冷,祂也以要這種方式進入我們的心中,直到今天都是如此。

我們常常懷疑:天主為甚麼允許戰爭、疾病和各種痛苦的事情發生呢?歸根到底,祂是全能的,祂完全能夠出手干預、修正謬誤。然而祂選擇用別的方式,一種令我們覺得難以接受的方式,來表現祂的德能。祂要我們歸向天主、棄絕魔鬼,並經由愛的力量,從根本上使我們成為完人。

那就是祂的和平計劃,惟一切實可行的計劃。耶穌在十字架上使之付諸執行。祂為此榮進耶路撒冷,我們今天也為此歡欣鼓舞。

反省與實踐:

- 1. 在生活中,我是否常歡讚「賀撒納,因上主之名而來的,當受讚頌」?
- 2. 在耶穌榮進耶路撒冷時,以外衣和樹枝鋪地,歡迎耶穌的人,正 是數日之後高喊「釘死他!」的人。我們曾接受洗禮,尊奉耶穌 為生命之主,但如今,也在生活中犯罪,不斷把耶穌釘在十字架 上嗎?
- 3. 耶穌的受難、死亡,是為了補贖我們的罪過。我們再一次恭聆耶穌受難史,是否再一次深受觸動,願意和耶穌一樣,為別人而犧牲自己呢?

禱文:

- 1. 請為候洗者祈禱。洗禮,是與基督同死同生。祈求上主恩賜每一位候洗者,都能深刻體會洗禮是死於自己,活於基督的「重生」,而能做好準備,在復活夜,與基督一起出死入生。
- 2. 請為世界和平祈禱。北韓即將發射飛彈,升高東北亞的緊張情勢。祈求天主悲憫,讓這事件和平落幕,而不致因擦槍走火,引爆戰爭。
- 3. 請為生病、遭難的人祈禱。因為氣候、壓力、環境和意外等因素,近來罹患疾病和因天災人禍而遭難的朋友增多。祈求上主特別降福他們,能得到妥善的照顧,早日康復。

基督苦難主日 "光榮的犧牲"

http://www.radiovaticana.va/cinesebig5/liturday/Bpasqua.html

全能永生的天主,求你降福這些樹枝:我們用來歡迎基督君王的聖枝;也求你使我們能追隨他進入永恆的耶路撒冷。

禮 儀 上, 聖 枝主 的讀經 一禮 一贊 篇 自 頌 第三 上主仆人」 首 意, 忍 受苦難,承 人甘心樂 一從精神。我們的縣基 母教會在 以苦難 督 的

第二篇讀經的內容是,宗徒時代教會一篇簡潔完整的基督論宣言。在今天彌撒中誦讀篇寫言,一則是強調耶穌服從至死,且死在十字架上,再則說明耶穌貶抑自己,天主因此舉揚了他。

誦 讀 對 觀福音 的耶穌 載,各有千秋。概括地 的記 约 觀點 出 會 發,在信德 人; 聖瑪 爾 谷福音著重耶穌和 遇人類歷史上的劇烈變革; 聖作耶穌的門徒和與耶穌一同背 的必要關系。今年是禮儀年的乙年。耶穌 史取自聖瑪爾谷福音。

晨,司祭長、長老及經 耶穌捆綁了,解送給比拉多。 你是猶太人的君王嗎?, 耶穌回 問說: 你說的是。」司祭長控 告他許多 你這麼 你看,他們控告 不回答嗎?」耶穌仍沒有回答 大為驚異。每逢節日,總督慣 常 求的囚犯。當時有那些在暴動中殺人 們所要 _ 個 名叫 奥那些在暴動中殺人的暴徒一上去,要求照常給他們辦理。比此:「你們愿意我給你們釋放猶太 是與那 知道司祭長是由於 ?,他原 嫉妒 但是,司祭長卻煽動群眾,一巴。比拉多又向他們說:「 來的。但 所稱的猶太君王, 我可怎麼辦呢 說:「釘他在十字 架上!」比拉多 了什麼惡事?」他們越發喊說:「上!」比拉多愿意滿足群眾,就給 巴辣巴,把耶穌鞭打後,交給他們,釘在 上。兵士把耶穌帶到庭院里面,即總 , 把全隊叫齊, 給耶穌穿上紫紅袍, 編 菱冠給他戴上,開始向他致敬說:「猶太人的君

萬歲!/然後用一根蘆葦敲他的頭,向他吐唾 沫, 屈膝朝拜他。他們戲弄了耶穌之後, 就給他 脱去紫紅袍,給他穿上自己的衣服,然後帶他出去,把他釘在十字架上。有一個基勒乃人西滿,是亞歷山大和魯富的父親,他從田間來,正路過那里,他們就強迫他背耶穌的十字架。他們 將耶穌帶到哥耳哥達的地方,解說「髑髏」方,就拿沒藥調和的酒給他喝,耶餅知 調和的酒給他喝,耶穌卻沒有接 受。他們就將他釘在十字架上,并把他的衣服分 屬,看誰得什麼。他們把耶穌釘在 上時,正是第三時辰。他的罪狀牌上寫的是: 太人的君王。, 舆他一起還釘了兩個 在他右邊,一個在他左邊。[這就應驗了經 上所說的:『他被列於叛逆之中。』]路過的人都侮辱他,搖著頭說:「哇!你這拆毀聖殿,三內重 建起來的,你從十字架上下來,救你自己罷! 同 樣,司祭長與經師也譏笑他,彼此說:「他救了別人,卻救不了自己!默西亞,以色列的君王!現 在從十字架上下來罷,叫我們看了好相信!」連與他一起釘在十字架上的人也辱罵他。到了第 六時辰, 遍地昏黑, 直到第九時辰。在第九時辰, 耶穌大聲呼號說:「厄羅依,厄羅依,肋瑪,撒巴黑塔尼?」意思是:「我的天主,我的天主,你為什麼舍棄了我?」旁邊站著的人中有的聽見了, 就說:「看,他呼喚厄里亞呢!」有一個人就跑過 去,把海綿浸滿了醋,綁在蘆葦上,遞給他喝,說:「等一等,我們看,是否厄里亞來將他卸下。」 耶穌大喊一聲,就斷了氣。聖所里的帳幕,從上 到下,分裂為二。對面站著的百夫長,看這樣斷了氣,就說:「這人真是天主子!」 爾谷所敘述的耶穌受難史,十分具體, 然是一篇悲劇性的現實主義作品。在這部 耶穌始終沉默,孤獨地,甚至被天父遺 地死去。我們聽了,能不動心?我們必定要立定 志向,一生追隨耶穌,跟著他從加里肋亞走到耶 路撒冷,從革責瑪尼的山園走到加爾瓦略山。我 們跟他一起死亡,為了好同他一起復活。

教區教理中心及教理委員會提供

http://www.dcc.catholic.org.hk

教理主題:恆心至終的恩賜

本主日是「基督苦難主日」,也稱「聖枝主日」,是教會聖問的第一天,紀念耶穌基督的逾越奧蹟。今天的進堂會以「祝福樹枝」和「遊行」作開始,目的是指向基督的苦難。

基督塵世的旅程帶給所有信徒「恆心至終的恩賜」。信徒在生命的祝福和考驗中,若能保留堅決、恆心不變的信德直到生命的力結,就是神學家們所稱的「恆心至終」。我們知道這事只靠協的力量是不可能完成,若要恆心至終」我們需要在生活中熱切助我們以毅力、決心,堅持到底;另一方面我們需要在生活中熱切助與天主的恩寵合作,直至塵世生命的結束。基督是我們獲得這恩難中來源,透過祂的苦難,信徒被邀請與祂結合,在任何痛苦或困難中忠實地以基督「恆心至終」的態度來面對世間所有的考驗。

保祿宗徒清楚為我們說明耶穌恆心到底的力量是源自他的謙抑自下。耶穌甘願「空虛自己」降生成人,放棄原本所有的榮耀所有的榮耀利,甘心忍受不合理的待遇。(參閱讀經二)耶穌本是聖潔無罪,卻為人的罪忍受一切的羞辱和痛苦,即使被人出反為離棄、否認,甚至面對最羞辱的十字架苦刑,也從面對。(人工反為此學了如僕般的侮辱,猶如依撒意亞先知所描述(參閱讀談明,因為他堅信天主不會使服從祂旨意的人受辱。(參閱讀談明,即爲在十字架上仍然堅信天主的拯救,他以聖詠仍為為過過,即爲在十字架上仍然堅信天主的極致,他以聖詠仍然對天主的信責。

耶穌基督是我們的典範、嚮導和導師,我們在基督內才可以完全明白天主的愛,和祂的計劃。若我們能空虛自己,與基督的苦難結合,我們就能以基督的思想、態度,面對世間一切的痛苦直至生命的終結。基督的一生是為我們而活:從降生死亡復活,以至現在,基督仍在天父面前為我們轉求,且透過祂的聖神保護和安慰我們(參閱教理 519)。我們應該在每一境況中繼續與天主的恩寵合作,

讓我們的生命在祂內開始,在祂內完成,「恆心到底」直到生命的終結,以獲得完滿救恩的喜樂。(參閱教理 1821)

生活反思/實踐:

- 1. 你認為什麼是恆心至終的恩賜?
- 2. 你經歷過他人對你不合理的對待嗎?你怎樣學習基督的謙抑自下, 為主忍受一切而 不發出怨言或惱怒?
- 3. 你相信天主的恩寵已在你之內嗎? 你如何領受基督給你的愛?你如何延續基督的生命,在困苦中與祂的苦難結合,堅持到底?

方濟會思高讀經推廣中心

基督苦難的棕櫚主日

【前言】

四旬期第六主日在整個 40 天的時間中,佔有非常獨特的重要地位,羅馬彌撒經本稱這個主日為「基督苦難的棕櫚主日」。這個標誌清楚地顯示本主日的禮儀含有兩個重要的主題:「紀念耶穌榮進耶路撒冷」和「紀念祂的苦難」。故在今天的禮儀中非常特別地誦讀兩段福音,其中一篇較短,敘述耶穌進入耶路撒冷聖城的情景(谷十一 1-10);另一段相當長,報導耶穌的受難史(谷十四 1~十五 47)。本專欄囿於篇幅限制,無法按常例詮釋經文,只能對整段故事做概略性的介紹。

【聖枝遊行】

早在第五世紀初,耶路撒冷的基督徒就已經開始以特別的方式慶祝聖枝主日:他們在當日下午便聚集在橄欖山上,舉行盛大的聖道禮儀,然後在傍晚時,手持棕櫚枝或橄欖枝一起遊行進入耶路撒冷。這個禮儀在歷史中不斷地傳至各個地方教會,最後演變成今日普世教會通行的「聖枝遊行」。每個信仰團體在這個主日舉行感恩禮時,信友都手持樹枝隆重的遊行進入聖堂,以紀念耶穌榮進耶路撒冷的事蹟。

耶穌榮進耶路撒冷

在聖枝遊行之前的聖道禮儀中,信仰團體一起聆聽有關耶穌進入聖城的福音記載(谷十一1-10)。這段經文包含兩個故事,先是尋找和發現驢駒的故事(1-6),其次就是耶穌進入耶路撒冷的敘述(7-10)。整篇故事述說耶穌以朝聖者和默西亞(君王)的身分進入耶路撒冷,祂是一個和平的君王,因此以一隻小驢駒作為坐騎。祂奉天主的名而來,為了執行天父派遣的旨意,進城

時受到群眾夾道歡呼。群眾雖然表現得極度熱情,但是耶穌卻十分孤寂,因為只有祂知道將要發生在自己身上的事,即使是祂的門徒,也必須等到耶穌復活後,才明白這一切事件的真正意義。

「耶穌受難史」的傳統源流

耶穌受難的敘述(十四~十五)和復活故事(十六1-8)是一個內在完整的故事,由許多意義上彼此連貫的單一事件所組織的。雖然它們彼此相關、共同組成可個整體,但是這些單獨的稅域單元,在共同組成耶穌苦難史之前,先經歷了一段很長的保存與流傳的階段。傳統的聖經研究認為,這段敘述本來有一個最根本的苦難故事,其中含有耶穌被捕、在公議會及比拉多前受審料,被帶往城外被釘在十字架上而死亡。這是一個最根本的敘述架構,隨著時間的發展,越來越多的敘述單元加入到這個架構之中,使得整個苦難敘述得以補充與擴展。

福音作者的編輯

福音作者所蒐集到的苦難敘述,應該是已經發展到相當程度的苦難故事,他在最後的編輯過程中,加上他所欲強調的神學重點,形成了我們目前在馬爾谷福音中看到的苦難敘述。至於有哪些部分是馬爾谷蒐集到的原始苦難敘述,哪些內容是馬爾谷編輯加入的,在學界中仍有爭論,但這些問題對一般基督徒而言並不重要,不影響我們了解耶穌苦難敘述。

福音作者直接引用、或間接使用了許多舊約苦難聖詠的經文,藉以描繪耶穌的圖像,將祂表達成「上主受苦的義人」。由此我們看出,馬爾谷積極的接受了猶太傳統中「受苦的義人」的主題,並將這個概念融合在默西亞基督論的神學思想中,形成了他所記載的福音中的苦難敘述。

難堪的生命結局?

關於耶穌的苦難、死亡(和復活)的報導屬於基督信仰中最古老、最神聖、最具有歷史價值的經文;福音作者將整段報個當作一連串彼此相關的連續事件傳遞下來。然而,其中的每個公司,那穌在每一時刻都知道,將要發生在祂身上的事。祂獨獨的走上被群眾嘲弄、被審判和釘死的道路下他的十二個門徒和此共進逾越節晚餐,但是其中一個出賣了祂、三個在華責瑪尼莊園睡著了、個三次否認祂、所有的門徒都撇下祂逃跑了……,最後,只有祂獨自一人在十字架上呼喊天主……。

耶穌真是天主子

這種敘述似乎顯出耶穌完全無能、無助,好像和耶穌公開生活中所宣講、所抱持的希望完全相反。但正是這種描寫成為了信仰的基礎和理由,因為在耶穌的苦難與死亡中,我們看見了隱藏在整部福音中的真理:耶穌是人子、天主的僕人,祂是默西亞君王和天主子。仔細地閱讀苦難敘述,我們不難發現,其實是耶穌自己決定被捕的時刻,祂給予死刑判決的信號。連祂在死前的呼

喊:「我的天主,我的天主,你為什麼捨棄了我?」也並非絕望的表達,而是充滿希望地引用聖詠的話語祈禱——耶穌是在對天主完全的信賴下自由地接受死亡。但是唯一看出這個真理的人,卻是一位羅馬百夫長,一個外邦人、耶穌死亡的見證者,他承認說:「這人真是天主子!」

【綜合反省】

降生成人的天主子用生命給我們啟示,出於完全自由的愛所表現的最徹底的服從——直到死去的服從。由人的角度來看,這種愛的服從就叫做信仰。基督徒的信仰就是和耶穌基督一樣答應「是」,和耶穌一起走祂的道路。如此耶穌的生命就成為一條通路,使人得以分享祂天主性的生命。

24 March 2024 Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday) - Year B

First Reading Is 50:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear.

For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle.

The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed. This is the

word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.2

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

- 1. 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.)
- 2. 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.)
- 3. 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.)
- 4. 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.)

Second Reading Phil 2:6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father. This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Phil 2:8-9

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!

Gospel Mk 14:1-15:47

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

N It was two days before the Passover and the feast of Unleavened Bread, and the chief priests and scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by some trick and have him put to death. For they said,

C It must not be during the festivities, or there will be a disturbance among the people.

N Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper; he was at dinner when a woman came in with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the ointment on his head. Some who were there said to one another indignantly,

C Why this waste of ointment? Ointment like this could have been sold for over three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor;

N and they were angry with her. But Jesus said,

J Leave her alone. Why are you upsetting her? What she has done for me is one of the good works. You have the poor with you always and you can be kind to them whenever you wish, but you will not always have me. She has done what was in her power to do; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. I tell you solemnly, wherever throughout all the world the Good News is proclaimed, what she has done will be told also, in remembrance of her.

N Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, approached the chief priests with an offer to hand Jesus over to them. They were delighted to hear it, and promised to give him money; and he looked for a way of betraying him when the opportunity should occur.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was sacrificed, his disciples said to him,

C Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?

N So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them,

J Go into the city and you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him, and say to the owner of the house which he enters, 'The Master says: Where is my dining room in which I can eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large upper room furnished with couches, all prepared. Make the preparations for us there.

N The disciples set out and went to the city and found everything as he had told them, and prepared the Passover.

When evening came he arrived with the Twelve. And while they were at table eating, Jesus said,

J I tell you solemnly, one of you is about to betray me, one of you eating with me.

N They were distressed and asked him, one after another,

O Not I, surely?

N He said to them,

J It is one of the Twelve, one who is dipping into the same dish with me. Yes, the Son of Man is going to his fate, as the scriptures say he will, but alas for that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! Better for that man if he had never been born!

N And as they were eating he took some bread, and when he had said the blessing he broke it and gave it to them saying,

J Take it; this is my body.

N Then he took a cup, and when he had returned thanks he gave it do them, and all drank from it, and he said to them,

J This is my blood, the blood of the covenant, which is to be poured out for many. I tell you solemnly, I shall not drink any more wine until the day I drink the new wine in the kingdom of God.

N After the psalms had been sung they left for the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them,

J You will all lose faith, for the scripture says, 'I shall strike the shepherd and the sheep will be scattered.' However after my resurrection I shall go before you to Galilee.

N Peter said.

O Even if all lose faith, I will not.

N And Jesus said to him,

J I tell you solemnly, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will have disowned me three times.

N But he repeated still more earnestly,

O If I have to die with you, I will never disown you.

N And they all said the same.

They came to a small estate called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples,

J Stay here while I pray.

N Then he took Peter and James and John with him. And a sudden fear came over him, and great distress. And he said to them,

J My soul is sorrowful to the point of death. Wait here, and keep awake.

N And going on a little further he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, this hour might pass him by. He said,

J Abba (Father)! Everything is possible for you. Take this cup away from me. But let it be as you, not I, would have it.

N He came back and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter,

J Simon, are you asleep? Had you not the strength to keep awake for one hour? You should be awake, and praying not to be put to the test. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.

N Again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came back and found them sleeping, their eyes were so heavy; and they could find no answer for him. He came back a third time and said to them.

J You can sleep on now and take your rest. It is all over. The hour has come. Now the Son of Man is to be betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up! Let us go! My betrayer is close at hand already.

N Even while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, came up with a number of men armed with swords and clubs, sent by the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. Now the traitor had arranged a signal with them. He had said,

O 'The one I kiss, he is the man. Take him in charge, and see he is well guarded when you lead him away.'

N So when the traitor came, he went straight up to Jesus and said,

O Rabbi!

N and kissed him. The others seized him and took him in charge. Then one of the bystanders drew his sword and struck out at the high priest's servant, and cut off his ear.

Then Jesus spoke,

J Am I a brigand that you had to set out to capture me with swords and clubs? I was among you teaching in the Temple day after day and you never laid hands on me. But this is to fulfil the scriptures.

N And they all deserted him and ran away. A young man who followed him had nothing on but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, but he left the cloth in their hands and ran away naked.

They led Jesus off to the high priest; and all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes assembled there. Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the high priest's palace, and was sitting with the attendants warming himself at the fire.

The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus on which they might pass the death sentence. But they could not find any. Several, indeed, brought false evidence against him, but their evidence was conflicting. Some stood up and submitted this false evidence against him,

C We heard him say, 'I am going to destroy this Temple made by human hands, and in three days build another, not made by human hands.'

N But even on this point their evidence was conflicting. The high priest then stood up before the whole assembly and put this question to Jesus,

O Have you no answer to that? What is this evidence these men are bringing against you?

N But he was silent and made no answer at all. The high priest put a second question to him,

O Are you the Christ the Son of the Blessed One?

N Jesus said,

J I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.

N The high priest tore his robes, and said,

O What need of witnesses have we now? You heard the blasphemy. What is your finding?

N And they all gave their verdict: he deserved to die.

Some of them started spitting at him and, blindfolding him, began hitting him with their fists and shouting,

C Play the prophet!

N And the attendants rained blows on him.

While Peter was down below in the courtyard, one of the high-priest's servant-girls came up. She saw Peter warming himself there, stared at him and said,

O You too were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.

N But he denied it, saying

O I do not know, I do not understand what you are talking about.

N And he went out into the forecourt. The servant-girl saw him and again started telling the bystanders,

O This fellow is one of them.

N But he again denied if. A little later the bystanders themselves said to Peter,

C You are one of them for sure! Why, you are a Galilean.

N But he started calling curses on himself and swearing,

O I do not know the man you speak of.

N At that moment the cock crew for the second time, and Peter recalled how Jesus had said to him, 'Before the cock crows twice, you will have disowned me three times.' And he burst into tears.

First thing in the morning, the chief priest together with the elders and scribes, in short the whole Sanhedrin, had their plan ready. They had Jesus bound and took him away and handed him over to Pilate.

Pilate questioned him,

O Are you the king of the Jews?

N He answered,

J It is you who say it.

N And the chief priests brought many accusations against him. Pilate questioned him again,

O Have you no reply at all? See how many accusations they are bringing against you!

N But to Pilate's amazement, Jesus made no further reply.

At festival time Pilate used to release a prisoner for them, anyone they asked for. Now a man called Barabbas was then in prison with the rioters who had committed murder during the uprising. When the crowds went up and began to ask Pilate the customary favour, Pilate answered them,

O Do you want me to release for you the king of the Jews?

N For he realised it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over. The chief priests, however, had incited the crowd to demand that he should release Barabbas for them instead. Then Pilate spoke again.

O But in that case, what am I to do with the man you call king of the Jews?

N They shouted back.

C Crucify him!

N Pilate asked them,

O Why? What harm has he done?

N But they shouted all the louder,

C Crucify him!

N So Pilate, anxious to placate the crowd, released Barabbas for them and having ordered Jesus to be scourged, handed him over to be crucified.

The soldiers led him away to the inner part of the palace, that is, the Praetorium, and called the whole cohort together. They dressed him up in purple, twisted some thorns into a crown and put it on him. And they began saluting him,

C Hail, king of the Jews!

N They struck his head with a reed and spat on him; and they went down on their knees to do him homage. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the purple and dressed him in his own clothes.

They led him out to crucify him. They enlisted a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means the place of the skull.

They offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he refused it. Then they crucified him, and shared out his clothing, casting lots to decide what each should get. It was the third hour when they crucified him. The inscription giving the charge against him read: 'The king of the Jews.' And they crucified two robbers

with him, one on his right and one on his left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their hands and said,

C Aha! So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself: come down from the cross!

N The chief priests and the scribes mocked him among themselves in the same way. They said,

C He saved others, he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the king of Israel, come down from the cross now, for us to see it and believe.

N Even those who were crucified with him taunted him.

When the sixth hour came there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

J Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?

N This means, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood by heard this, they said,

C Listen he is calling on Elijah.

N Someone ran and soaked a sponge in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink, saying,

O Wait and see if Elijah will come to take him down.

N But Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

All kneel and pause a moment.

And the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The centurion, who was standing in front of him, had seen how he died, and he said,

O In truth this man was a son of God.

N There were some women watching from a distance. Among them were Mary of Magdala, Mary who was the mother of James the younger, and Joset, and Salome. These used to follow him and look after him when he was in Galilee. And there were many other women there who had come up to Jerusalem with him.

It was now evening, and since it was Preparation day (that is the vigil of the Sabbath), there came Joseph of Arimathaea, a prominent member of the Council, who himself lived in hope of seeing the kingdom of God, and he boldly went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate, astonished that he should have died so soon, summoned the centurion and enquired if he was already dead. Having been assured of this by the centurion, he granted the corpse to Joseph who brought a shroud, took Jesus down from the cross, wrapped him in the shroud and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. Mary of Magdala and Mary the mother of Joset were watching and took note of where he was laid. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.