

## 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Hosaena, as the beginning of Holy Week of Christ's Passion

### 39. The Vigil of Hosaena, The first corpse (Lazarus)

#### Hebrews 8 : 1 – finish

Now the main point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, <sup>2</sup>a minister in the sanctuary and the true tent\* that the Lord, and not any mortal, has set up. <sup>3</sup>For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; hence it is necessary for this priest also to have something to offer. <sup>4</sup>Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law. <sup>5</sup>They offer worship in a sanctuary that is a sketch and shadow of the heavenly one; for Moses, when he was about to erect the tent,\* was warned, 'See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain.' <sup>6</sup>But Jesus\* has now obtained a more excellent ministry, and to that degree he is the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted through better promises. <sup>7</sup>For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no need to look for a second one.

<sup>8</sup> God\* finds fault with them when he says:

'The days are surely coming, says the Lord,  
when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel  
and with the house of Judah;

<sup>9</sup>not like the covenant that I made with their ancestors,  
on the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt;  
for they did not continue in my covenant,  
and so I had no concern for them, says the Lord.

<sup>10</sup>This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel  
after those days, says the Lord:  
I will put my laws in their minds,  
and write them on their hearts,

and I will be their God,

and they shall be my people.

<sup>11</sup>And they shall not teach one another  
or say to each other, “Know the Lord”,  
for they shall all know me,  
from the least of them to the greatest.

<sup>12</sup>For I will be merciful towards their iniquities,  
and I will remember their sins no more.’

<sup>13</sup>In speaking of ‘a new covenant’, he has made the first one obsolete. And what is obsolete and  
growing old will soon disappear.

### **1Peter 1: 13-21**

<sup>13</sup>Therefore prepare your minds for action; \* discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace  
that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. <sup>14</sup>Like obedient children, do not be  
conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. <sup>15</sup>Instead, as he who called you is  
holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; <sup>16</sup>for it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am  
holy.’

<sup>17</sup> If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live  
in reverent fear during the time of your exile. <sup>18</sup>You know that you were ransomed from the  
futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, <sup>19</sup>but  
with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. <sup>20</sup>He was  
destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your  
sake.

### **Acts 8 : 26- finish**

<sup>26</sup>Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Get up and go towards the south \* to the road that  
goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now  
there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in

charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go over to this chariot and join it.’ <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ <sup>31</sup>He replied, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

‘Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.’

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, ‘About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?’ <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?’ <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip\* baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

<sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

### **Psalm 80 (81) : 3, 4**

Sound the trumpet at the new moon,

On our great feast day.

For it is commanded of Israel.

### **John 12 : 1-12**

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup>There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those

at the table with him. <sup>3</sup>Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them\* with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. <sup>4</sup>But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, <sup>5</sup>'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii\* and the money given to the poor?' <sup>6</sup>(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) <sup>7</sup>Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it\* so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup>You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

<sup>9</sup> When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>10</sup>So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, <sup>11</sup>since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus.

**40. Midnight of Hosaena, Hymn even hence of the Eighth Day. At Midnight preceding the readings from the "Miracles"**

**Psalm 117 (118) : 26, 27**

Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord;  
We bless you from the house of the Lord.  
God is the Lord and has appeared unto us.

**Luke 19 : 1 – 11**

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. <sup>2</sup>A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax-collector and was rich. <sup>3</sup>He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. <sup>4</sup>So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. <sup>5</sup>When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.' <sup>6</sup>So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. <sup>7</sup>All who saw it began to grumble and said, 'He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.' <sup>8</sup>Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, 'Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded

anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.’<sup>9</sup> Then Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham.’<sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.’

#### **41. At Dawn, the time for the Procession around the Sanctuary**

##### **Psalm 121 (122) : 1, 2**

I rejoiced, owing those who told me,  
Let us pass over unto the house of the Lord.  
Our feet stood in your courts, O Jerusalem

##### **Matthew 20 : 29 – finish**

<sup>29</sup>As they were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. <sup>30</sup>There were two blind men sitting by the roadside. When they heard that Jesus was passing by, they shouted, ‘Lord, \* have mercy on us, Son of David!’ <sup>31</sup>The crowd sternly ordered them to be quiet; but they shouted even more loudly, ‘Have mercy on us, Lord, Son of David!’ <sup>32</sup>Jesus stood still and called them, saying, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ <sup>33</sup>They said to him, ‘Lord, let our eyes be opened.’  
<sup>34</sup>Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes. Immediately they regained their sight and followed him.

##### **42. Psalm 147 : 1, 2**

Do praise the Lord, O Jerusalem!  
Praise your God, O Zion!  
For He has secured the bars of your gates;

##### **Mark 10 : 46 – finish**

<sup>46</sup> They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. <sup>47</sup>When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!’  
<sup>48</sup>Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, ‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’ <sup>49</sup>Jesus stood still and said, ‘Call him here.’ And they called the blind man,

saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, he is calling you.' <sup>50</sup>So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. <sup>51</sup>Then Jesus said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The blind man said to him, 'My teacher, \* let me see again.' <sup>52</sup>Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has made you well.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

### **43.Psalm 117 (118) 27, 28**

Bind the festal sacrifice with ropes

To the horns of the altar.

Thou art my God and I shall praise Thee

### **Luke 18: 35 – finish**

<sup>35</sup>As he approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. <sup>36</sup>When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. <sup>37</sup>They told him, 'Jesus of Nazareth \* is passing by.' <sup>38</sup>Then he shouted, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' <sup>39</sup>Those who were in front sternly ordered him to be quiet; but he shouted even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' <sup>40</sup>Jesus stood still and ordered the man to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, <sup>41</sup>'What do you want me to do for you?' He said, 'Lord, let me see again.' <sup>42</sup>Jesus said to him, 'Receive your sight; your faith has saved you.' <sup>43</sup>Immediately he regained his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, praised God.

### **44.Psalm 67 (68) : 34**

Give glory to God

His magnificence is over Israel;

And His might is in the clouds.

### **Matthew 9 : 26 – finish**

<sup>26</sup>And the report of this spread throughout that district.

<sup>27</sup>As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, crying loudly, 'Have mercy on us, Son of David!' <sup>28</sup>When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them,

‘Do you believe that I am able to do this?’ They said to him, ‘Yes, Lord.’<sup>29</sup> Then he touched their eyes and said, ‘According to your faith let it be done to you.’<sup>30</sup> And their eyes were opened. Then Jesus sternly ordered them, ‘See that no one knows of this.’<sup>31</sup> But they went away and spread the news about him throughout that district.

<sup>32</sup> After they had gone away, a demoniac who was mute was brought to him.<sup>33</sup> And when the demon had been cast out, the one who had been mute spoke; and the crowds were amazed and said, ‘Never has anything like this been seen in Israel.’<sup>34</sup> But the Pharisees said, ‘By the ruler of the demons he casts out the demons.’\*

<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness.<sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.<sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few;<sup>38</sup> therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.’

## **45.Hymn**

### **Psalm 9: 11, 12**

Chant to the Lord Who lives in Zion,  
Declare His ways among the nations,  
Like an avenger of blood, He remembers them.

### **Matthew 21 : 1 – 18**

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples,<sup>2</sup> saying to them, ‘Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me.<sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, just say this, “The Lord needs them.” And he will send them immediately.’\*

<sup>4</sup>This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

<sup>5</sup>‘Tell the daughter of Zion,  
Look, your king is coming to you,

humble, and mounted on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’

<sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup>they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup>A very large crowd\* spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup>The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,  
‘Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest heaven!’

<sup>10</sup>When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, ‘Who is this?’ <sup>11</sup>The crowds were saying, ‘This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.’

<sup>12</sup> Then Jesus entered the temple\* and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold doves. <sup>13</sup>He said to them, ‘It is written,  
“My house shall be called a house of prayer”;  
but you are making it a den of robbers.’

<sup>14</sup> The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. <sup>15</sup>But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did, and heard\* the children crying out in the temple, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David’, they became angry <sup>16</sup>and said to him, ‘Do you hear what these are saying?’ Jesus said to them, ‘Yes; have you never read,  
“Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies  
you have prepared praise for yourself”?’

<sup>17</sup>He left them, went out of the city to Bethany, and spent the night there.

#### **46.Psalm 8 : 2**

Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings,  
Has Thou perfected praise.  
In spite of Thine enemies,  
To silence not only the foe, but the avenger.

**Mark 11 : 1 – 13**

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup>and said to them, ‘Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says to you, “Why are you doing this?” just say this, “The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.”’ <sup>4</sup>They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, <sup>5</sup>some of the bystanders said to them, ‘What are you doing, untying the colt?’ <sup>6</sup>They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. <sup>7</sup>Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup>Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. <sup>9</sup>Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, ‘Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

<sup>10</sup> Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!  
Hosanna in the highest heaven!

<sup>11</sup> Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

<sup>12</sup> On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry.

**47. Abraham’s Hymn of Heaven**

**Psalm 49 (50) : 1, 2**

God, as the Lord of gods, has spoken.  
And has called the earth,  
From the rising of the sun until its setting.  
Out of Zion is the appearance of His youthful bloom,  
God will surely come here openly.

**Luke 19 : 28 – finish**

<sup>28</sup> After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

<sup>29</sup> When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, <sup>30</sup> saying, ‘Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, “Why are you untying it?” just say this: “The Lord needs it.”’ <sup>32</sup> So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. <sup>33</sup> As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, ‘Why are you untying the colt?’ <sup>34</sup> They said, ‘The Lord needs it.’ <sup>35</sup> Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup> As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. <sup>37</sup> As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, <sup>38</sup> saying, ‘Blessed is the king

who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven,

and glory in the highest heaven!’

<sup>39</sup> Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, ‘Teacher, order your disciples to stop.’ <sup>40</sup> He answered, ‘I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.’

<sup>41</sup> As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, <sup>42</sup> saying, ‘If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.

<sup>43</sup> Indeed, the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up ramparts around you and surround you, and hem you in on every side. <sup>44</sup> They will crush you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one stone upon another; because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God.’

<sup>45</sup> Then he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling things there; <sup>46</sup> and he said, ‘It is written,

“My house shall be a house of prayer”;  
but you have made it a den of robbers.’

<sup>47</sup> Every day he was teaching in the temple. The chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people kept looking for a way to kill him; <sup>48</sup> but they did not find anything they could do, for all the people were spellbound by what they heard.

#### **48. Hymn of Jacob’s blessing**

##### **Psalm 80 (81) : 3, 4**

Sound the trumpet at the new moon,  
On our great feast day.  
For it is commanded of Israel,  
A decree of the God of Jacob.

##### **John 12 : 12 – 20**

<sup>12</sup> The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, ‘Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—  
the King of Israel!’

<sup>14</sup> Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:

<sup>15</sup> ‘Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.

Look, your king is coming,  
sitting on a donkey’s colt!’

<sup>16</sup> His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him. <sup>17</sup> So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify. \* <sup>18</sup> It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him. <sup>19</sup> The Pharisees then said to one another, ‘You see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!’

## 49. At the qidase

### Hebrews 9 : 11 – finish

<sup>11</sup> But when Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come,<sup>\*</sup> then through the greater and perfect<sup>\*</sup> tent<sup>\*</sup> (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation),<sup>12</sup> he entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.<sup>13</sup> For if the blood of goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified,<sup>14</sup> how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit<sup>\*</sup> offered himself without blemish to God, purify our<sup>\*</sup> conscience from dead works to worship the living God!

<sup>15</sup> For this reason he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, because a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions under the first covenant.<sup>\*</sup> <sup>16</sup> Where a will<sup>\*</sup> is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. <sup>17</sup> For a will<sup>\*</sup> takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. <sup>18</sup> Hence not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. <sup>19</sup> For when every commandment had been told to all the people by Moses in accordance with the law, he took the blood of calves and goats,<sup>\*</sup> with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the scroll itself and all the people,<sup>20</sup> saying, ‘This is the blood of the covenant that God has ordained for you.’ <sup>21</sup> And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent<sup>\*</sup> and all the vessels used in worship. <sup>22</sup> Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

<sup>23</sup> Thus it was necessary for the sketches of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves need better sacrifices than these. <sup>24</sup> For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. <sup>25</sup> Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; <sup>26</sup> for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is,

he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. <sup>27</sup>And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgement, <sup>28</sup>so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

### **1Peter 4 : 1 – 12**

Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, \* arm yourselves also with the same intention (for whoever has suffered in the flesh has finished with sin), <sup>2</sup>so as to live for the rest of your earthly life \* no longer by human desires but by the will of God. <sup>3</sup>You have already spent enough time in doing what the Gentiles like to do, living in licentiousness, passions, drunkenness, revels, carousing, and lawless idolatry. <sup>4</sup>They are surprised that you no longer join them in the same excesses of dissipation, and so they blaspheme. \* <sup>5</sup>But they will have to give an account to him who stands ready to judge the living and the dead. <sup>6</sup>For this is the reason the gospel was proclaimed even to the dead, so that, though they had been judged in the flesh as everyone is judged, they might live in the spirit as God does.

<sup>7</sup> The end of all things is near; \* therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. <sup>8</sup> Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. <sup>9</sup> Be hospitable to one another without complaining. <sup>10</sup> Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. <sup>11</sup> Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

### **Acts 28 : 11 – finish**

<sup>11</sup> Three months later we set sail on a ship that had wintered at the island, an Alexandrian ship with the Twin Brothers as its figurehead. <sup>12</sup> We put in at Syracuse and stayed there for three days; <sup>13</sup> then we weighed anchor and came to Rhegium. After one day there a south wind sprang up,

and on the second day we came to Puteoli. <sup>14</sup>There we found believers\* and were invited to stay with them for seven days. And so we came to Rome. <sup>15</sup>The believers\* from there, when they heard of us, came as far as the Forum of Appius and Three Taverns to meet us. On seeing them, Paul thanked God and took courage.

<sup>16</sup> When we came into Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself, with the soldier who was guarding him.

<sup>17</sup> Three days later he called together the local leaders of the Jews. When they had assembled, he said to them, ‘Brothers, though I had done nothing against our people or the customs of our ancestors, yet I was arrested in Jerusalem and handed over to the Romans. <sup>18</sup>When they had examined me, the Romans\* wanted to release me, because there was no reason for the death penalty in my case. <sup>19</sup>But when the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to the emperor—even though I had no charge to bring against my nation. <sup>20</sup>For this reason therefore I have asked to see you and speak with you,\* since it is for the sake of the hope of Israel that I am bound with this chain.’ <sup>21</sup>They replied, ‘We have received no letters from Judea about you, and none of the brothers coming here has reported or spoken anything evil about you. <sup>22</sup>But we would like to hear from you what you think, for with regard to this sect we know that everywhere it is spoken against.’

<sup>23</sup> After they had fixed a day to meet him, they came to him at his lodgings in great numbers. From morning until evening he explained the matter to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the law of Moses and from the prophets.

<sup>24</sup>Some were convinced by what he had said, while others refused to believe. <sup>25</sup>So they disagreed with each other; and as they were leaving, Paul made one further statement: ‘The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your ancestors through the prophet Isaiah,

<sup>26</sup>“Go to this people and say,

You will indeed listen, but never understand,  
and you will indeed look, but never perceive.

<sup>27</sup>For this people’s heart has grown dull,  
and their ears are hard of hearing,

and they have shut their eyes;  
so that they might not look with their eyes,  
and listen with their ears,  
and understand with their heart and turn—  
and I would heal them.”

<sup>28</sup>Let it be known to you then that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen.’\*

<sup>30</sup>He lived there for two whole years at his own expense\* and welcomed all who came to him,  
<sup>31</sup>proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness  
and without hindrance.

### **Psalm 8 : 2**

Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings  
Has Thou perfected praise,  
In spite of Thine enemies,  
To silence not only the foe, but the avenger.

### **John 5 : 11 – 31**

<sup>11</sup>But he answered them, ‘The man who made me well said to me, “Take up your mat and walk.”  
, <sup>12</sup>They asked him, ‘Who is the man who said to you, “Take it up and walk”?’ <sup>13</sup>Now the man  
who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had disappeared in\* the crowd that was  
there. <sup>14</sup>Later Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, ‘See, you have been made well! Do  
not sin any more, so that nothing worse happens to you.’ <sup>15</sup>The man went away and told the Jews  
that it was Jesus who had made him well. <sup>16</sup>Therefore the Jews started persecuting Jesus, because  
he was doing such things on the sabbath. <sup>17</sup>But Jesus answered them, ‘My Father is still working,  
and I also am working.’ <sup>18</sup>For this reason the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because  
he was not only breaking the sabbath, but was also calling God his own Father, thereby making  
himself equal to God.

<sup>19</sup> Jesus said to them, ‘Amen. Amen. The Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father\* does, the Son does likewise. <sup>20</sup>The Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing; and he will show him greater works than these, so that you will be astonished. <sup>21</sup>Indeed, just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whomsoever he wishes. <sup>22</sup>The Father judges no one but has given all judgement to the Son, <sup>23</sup>so that all may honour the Son just as they honour the Father. Anyone who does not honour the Son does not honour the Father who sent him. <sup>24</sup>Amen. Amen. Anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgement, but has passed from death to life.

<sup>25</sup> Amen. Amen. The hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. <sup>26</sup>For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; <sup>27</sup>and he has given him authority to execute judgement, because he is the Son of Man. <sup>28</sup>Do not be astonished at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice <sup>29</sup>and will come out—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

<sup>30</sup> ‘I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge; and my judgement is just, because I seek to do not my own will but the will of him who sent me.

The above readings based on the 1990 E.C. Getsawe citations, may also be found in the 1996 E.C. edition of the Gibre Himamat, which contains additional prayers and readings for the same period

Psalm readings are from translation of the Septuagint Psalter compared with the Ge’ez, the rest of the citations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches

## **HOMILY**

The weekend immediately preceding the greatest annual celebration in Christianity is variously called, “Palm Sunday,” “Our Lord’s triumphant entry into Jerusalem,” or “Hosaena.” All three refer to the same historic event, marking the peak of popularity in the earthly career of Jesus of Nazareth. As He returned from His usual circuit of travels between Galilee and Judea, His fame had spread all over the country.

All who followed reports of His astounding miracles and His adaptation of John the Baptist’s message about repentance, a promise of eternal life in that “heavenly kingdom,” hoped to get a closer look, and hear more. However, those who were jealous of His growing popularity, began to panic, on hearing that He was returning to Jerusalem. They feared the annual festal crowd might try to make Jesus king, unleashing the wrath of the Roman occupation force on all of them. Those who had nothing to lose, saw Jesus as a bright ray of hope, those who imagined they had achieved some measure of security, saw Him as the biggest threat to their control.

All of the scriptural citations and prayers appointed for this week are selected to remind each of us that now, as then, Jesus comes to save us. He is the Blessed one who comes in the Name of the Lord to save us from our preoccupation with sin and death. But, to accept His Good News of a possible change, we must accept that such a miracle can only happen if we are willing to take responsibility to change our ways. God is perfect, therefore He does not change. If we expect to be rewarded in His eternal kingdom, we must now begin to change our personal priorities and lose our selfish habits. We must repent of our sins, which means accepting God’s standard of love. That means that we must stop making excuses for failing to love Him with our whole mind, heart, and soul. And it is precisely such personal failures keeping each of us from living consciously in God’s loving presence, treating everyone we see, as we would like them to treat us.

May our participation in this Holy Week of Christ’s Passion convince each of us to take up cross to follow our King to the glory of His Resurrection.