

MARCH 29, 2015



# PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD



ISAIAH 50:4-7

PSALM 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24

PHILIPPIANS 2:6-11

MARK 14:1-15:47 OR 15:1-39

## REFLECTION

Imagine this might happen during the same few days. You begin with your friends being closer to you than ever before. Then something terrible happens to you. Your friends, just when you need them the most, turn their backs on you. In today's readings, Jesus goes suddenly from being famous to being the guy no one wants to be seen with. Jesus enters Jerusalem like a rock star. Crowds come to cheer his arrival. One woman even anoints Jesus with expensive oil to honor him. He celebrates with his closest friends, and during the meal Jesus tells them one of them will soon turn him over to the authorities. The list of the disciples' failures only grows from here—they fall asleep when they are supposed to be keeping watch for him, they abandon and deny him as he is being tortured and killed. "He emptied himself," the reading from Philipians says (2:7). Jesus surrenders entirely to being human. He experiences the worst of human cruelty—physical harm to the point of death and the heartbreak of being betrayed and given up on by his friends.



"PSALM 22: MY  
GOD, MY GOD,  
WHY HAVE YOU  
ABANDONED ME"

**VAL PARKER**

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and gospel version of  
the words of Jesus from  
the Cross:

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## ACTION

Psalms 22, the prayer of Jesus from the Cross, begins with a cry of despair, but the closing lines are filled with hope: "In the assembly I will praise you" (verse 23). In the week ahead, Holy Week, make a commitment to praise God. Every day this week be conscious of the love and mercy of God. If possible, attend the liturgies of the Triduum—Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday—the pinnacle of the Catholic liturgical year.

## JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- Have you ever felt abandoned or let down by your friends? Have you ever let friends down when they needed you?
- When you read the story of Jesus's suffering and death what would you want to say to him?