

The Passion of the Lord

This Gospel is deeply moving. It takes us from betrayal to suffering, from fear to silence, and finally to the stillness of the tomb. It is not an easy story—but it is a story of love.

At the beginning, we see betrayal. Judas, one of Jesus' own friends, agrees to hand Him over. It reminds us that even those closest to love can turn away. And yet, Jesus does not run. He continues forward, knowing what is coming.

At the Last Supper, Jesus shares bread and wine and says, "This is my body... this is my blood." In this moment, He gives Himself completely. Even before the cross, He is already offering His life. Love, in its truest form, holds nothing back.

In the garden of Gethsemane, we see Jesus in anguish. He prays, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not as I will, but as you will." Here, Jesus shows us that faith is not the absence of fear—it is trusting God even when we are afraid. He understands our struggles, our hesitation, our pain.

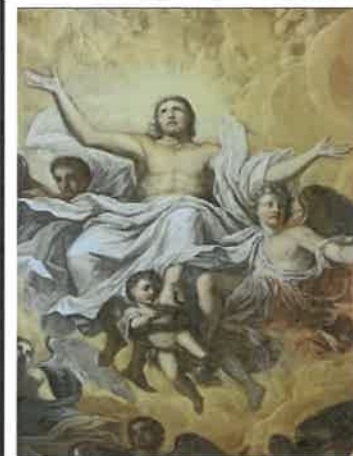
Then comes the arrest, the trial, and Peter's denial. Peter, who promised to stay faithful, denies Jesus three times. How often do we do the same? Maybe not with words, but in our choices, our silence, or our fear. Still, Peter's story does not end here—and neither does ours. Failure is not the end when there is love and mercy.

Jesus is mocked, beaten, and crowned with thorns. The crowd that once shouted "Hosanna" now cries out, "Crucify Him!" It is a painful reminder of how quickly hearts can change. It challenges us to ask: when do we follow the crowd instead of standing for what is right?

On the cross, Jesus speaks words that echo through time: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" In this moment, He enters into the deepest human suffering—even the feeling of being abandoned. No one who suffers is alone, because He has been there.

And yet, even in His suffering, Jesus forgives, loves, and gives everything. When He dies, the earth shakes, the veil of the temple is torn, and a Roman soldier declares, "Truly, this was the Son of God." Even in death, Jesus reveals who He is. Finally, there is silence. Jesus is laid in the tomb. People waiting in grief and uncertainty.

This Gospel invites us to reflect on our own lives: Where do we betray, deny, or turn away? Where do we struggle to trust God? Where are we called to love more deeply, even when it is difficult? But above all, this Passion reminds us of one truth: Love is stronger than suffering. Love is stronger than sin. Love is stronger than death. Jesus gives everything — not because we deserve it, but because He loves us completely.



Verse before the Gospel :

Philippians 2:8-9

"Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name."

Christ's obedience shows the depth of His love. He did not avoid suffering, but freely accepted the cross out of trust in the Father and love for us. His humility reveals that true greatness is found in giving oneself completely for others.

The cross, once a sign of suffering and shame, becomes the place where love triumphs. Because Jesus humbled Himself, God raised Him up and gave Him the highest name.



Saint Teresa of Avila Catholic Church

11600 Atwood Rd, Auburn, California 95603

March 29, 2026 Palm Sunday

Matthew 21:1-11

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

Philippians 2:6-11

Matthew 26:14—27:66

Jesus and His friends were walking along the road toward the city of Jerusalem. The sun was shining, and people were already talking about Him. As they came close to a little village near a hill called the Mount of Olives, Jesus stopped. He turned to two of His disciples and said, "Go into the village ahead of you. You will find a donkey and her baby tied there. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone asks what you are doing, just say, 'The Master needs them.'"

The disciples trusted Jesus, so they went. When they arrived, they found the donkey and the colt just as Jesus had said. They untied them, and when someone asked what they were doing, they answered, "The Master needs them."

And right away, the people let them go. The disciples brought the animals to Jesus and placed their cloaks on them to make a soft seat. Then Jesus climbed on. He didn't ride a big, strong horse like other kings.

He rode a gentle little donkey.

As Jesus began to travel toward Jerusalem, something amazing started to happen.

People gathered along the road—more and more of them! They had heard about Jesus and wanted to see Him.

Some people took off their cloaks and spread them on the ground in front of Him. Others cut branches from the trees and laid them down on the road.

It was like they were making a royal path!

Then the crowd began to shout with joy:

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

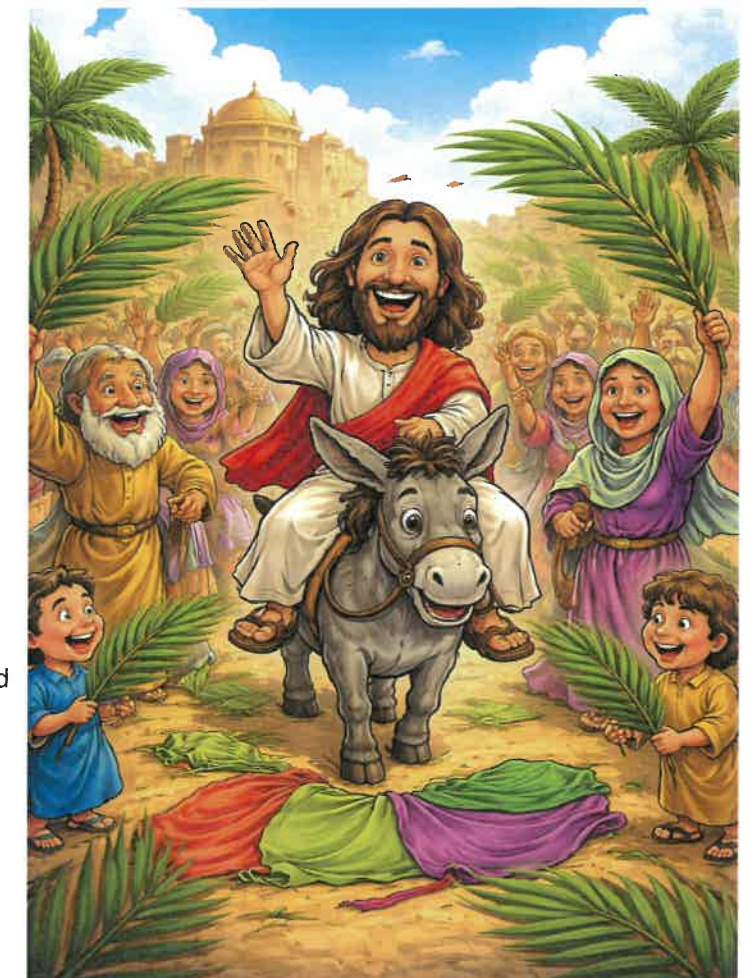
Children waved branches in the air. Grown-ups smiled and cheered. Everyone was excited. Clip-clop, clip-clop, the donkey carried Jesus closer to the city. When He entered Jerusalem, the whole city was buzzing with questions.

"Who is this?" people asked. And the crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth!" But Jesus was more than that.

He was indeed a King—but not the kind people expected.

He came gently, riding on a donkey, bringing peace, love, and hope to everyone.

And that is why, on that special day, the people shouted with all their hearts: "Hosanna!"



St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church
 11600 Atwood Road,
 Auburn, CA 95603
 www.stteresaauburn.com

Rev. Fr. Arbel S. Cabasagan, Pastor
Rev. Fr. Michael Estaris
Deacons: John Sheehan & Adam Crawford

Mission Statement

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in My Love." In Christ's Love, the Eucharistic community of St. Teresa of Avila, Auburn, embraces and welcomes all as part of God's family. We value every parishioner and strive to reflect the mercy,

Parish Office: 11600 Atwood Rd., Auburn, CA 95603
 (530) 889-2254, fax (530) 889-2643
 info@stteresaauburn.com

Office Hours: Monday—Friday, 8:00am—4:00pm
 Closed for lunch 11:30am—12:30pm

Pastor: Fr. Arbel S. Cabasagan
 (530) 889-2254 ext. 100
 E-mail: fr_arbel@yahoo.com

Parish Secretary: Barbara Freuler
 (530) 889-2254, ext. 101,
 E-mail: barbara_freuler@stteresaauburn.com

Religious Education Coordinator:
 E-mail:

Music Ministry: Jean Sawyer
 (707) 567-2541, E-Mail, jeansawyer8@aol.com

St. Joseph School: Kristen Mendonsa, Principal
 (530) 885-4490 E-mail:
 info@saintjosephauburn.org

OFFERTORY FOR THE FOLLOWING

March 22, 2026

Offertory : \$ 9995.21
 Online Giving : \$ 2510.00
 Total : \$ 12,505.21

Thank you for your generous donations!

Sunday Mass:
 Saturday Vigil 5:00pm
 Sunday 8:30am, 10:30am,
 4:00pm Spanish

Daily Masses:

Tuesday— Friday 8:30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Friday 9:00am—10:00am
 Saturday 3:30pm – 4:30pm

Eucharistic Adoration:

Friday's 9:00am—6:00pm

Baptisms:

Every 3rd Saturday of the month @ 2:30pm
 Classes, every 3rd Friday of the month @ 6:30pm. Call the parish office to register..

Marriage:

If you are a member of our parish, please contact a priest or deacon of your choice at least six months in advance of your desired wedding in order to participate in a process of marriage preparation.

Confirmation:

For teens, the Sacrament of Confirmation is a two-year preparation process; please contact our coordinator of religious education; for adults not yet confirmed, please call the parish office.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA, English):

If you are interested in learning more about the Catholic Church or becoming Catholic, contact Karen Sheehan @ 916-812-3737
OCIA, (Spanish): Leticia Aceves @ 530-613-4302

Prayer Chain Requests:

For those in need of prayers please e-mail Liz Rhodes: esrhodes32@gmail.com

St. Vincent de Paul: (530) 305-1904

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 3/28 5:00pm Anna Fenner
 Sunday, 3/29 8:30am + Tom & Raymond Giaslason
 10:30am + Abe Swartz
 Esther Mower
 Tuesday, 3/30 8:30am Cody Monroe
 Wednesday, 4/1 8:30am Schaper Family
 Thursday, 4/2 8:30am HOLY THURSDAY
 Friday, 4/3 8:30am GOOD FRIDAY

LITURGICAL MINISTER SCHEDULE

April 4th & 5th, 2026

Cross Bearers

Saturday, 8:00 pm Gianni D'amico, Easton King,
 Sunday, 8:30am The Durants
 Sunday, 10:30am Matt Clifton, Colin Santos
 Ethan Wells

Eucharistic Ministers

Saturday, 8:00pm Jackie Carlson-Captain
 Claudia Beckwith
 Duncan Elledge,
 Val Koeberlein
 Carol Coleman
 Trish Jenson
 Sunday, 8:30am Tim & Becky Gilbride
 Tom & Kris Epperson
 Fran Sypniexi
 Luciana Curtis
 Sunday, 10:30am Mario Villamor
 Nati Magowan , Lisa Avila
 Rhemea Broskway
 Barabra Kilborn,

Lectors

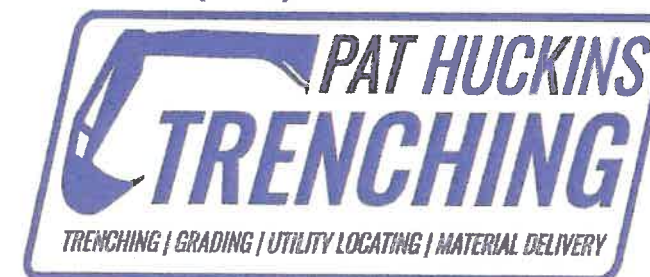
Saturday, 8:00pm Mike & Monica Durant
 Sunday, 8:30am Tom & Cindy Fossum
 10:30am Mario & Vissia Villamor

Sacristans

8:00pm Steve McCullough
 8:30am Julia Eggert
 10:30am Chuck Manzer,
 Danny Bernal

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3/21/26 Baptism
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 Parents: Fernando Marmolejo & Sherice Dean



Special Thank you to the volunteers from the Auburn Interfaith Food Closet who cooked and served the Soup & Bread Meal On Friday night.



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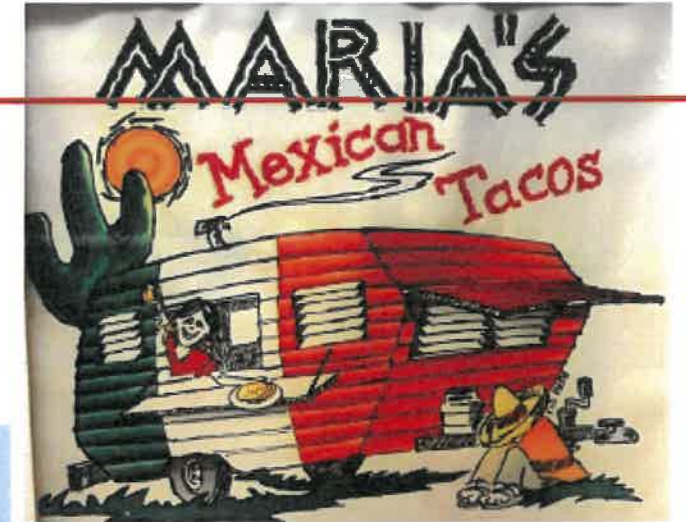
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All proceeds benefit St. Teresa of Avila Church, St. Joseph Catholic Church, St. Joseph School, and the Auburn Community.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 29, 2026

1. The Arts & Environment Ministry are asking for donations of Easter Lilies to decorate the altar, ambo and baptismal font during the Easter Season.

You can leave your lily donations in the chapel between the hours of 8:00am to 1:00pm beginning on Tuesday, March 31st through Good Friday, April 3rd.

2. The Holy Week schedule is as follows: Monday, March 30th through Wednesday, April 1st there will be 8:30am morning Mass with confessions following Mass.

Holy Thursday, April 2nd at 6:00pm will be the Mass of the Lord's Supper. Good Friday, April 3rd at 12:00 noon will be the Passion of the Lord, followed by English Stations of the Cross.

The Spanish Community will be Live Stations of the Cross at 3:00pm on the soccer field. The last of the Soup and Bread meals will be served in the hall Good Friday evening beginning at 5:00pm and ending at 6:30pm.

Holy Saturday, April 4th will be the Easter Vigil Mass at 8:00pm.

Easter Sunday Masses are at 8:30am, 10:30am and 4:00pm.

3. There is a special altar server practice on Tuesday evening, March 31st at 6:00pm in the church. This practice is mandatory for all servers signed up to serve during Holy Week.

There is a need for candle bearers for the Easter Vigil Mass--- please contact Brigit Barnes if you available to serve.

4. The parish office will be closed on Good Friday in observance of the Passion of the Lord.



In every parish I have been assigned to, I encounter a living reflection of Saint Joseph. There is always someone—sometimes a few—who quietly takes care of the needs of the church.

They fix what is broken, clean what is

unnoticed, and respond whenever something needs attention. They are the first to arrive and often the last to leave, working not for recognition, but out of love.

What moves me deeply is not only what they do, but how they do it. With a smile. With generosity. Sometimes without pay, sometimes as volunteers, yet always with a joyful spirit. When I ask them why they give so much of themselves, their answer is simple yet profound: "Father, we are working our way to heaven." What a beautiful expression of faith.

Like Saint Joseph, they understand that every nail hammered, every light fixed, every small act of care for the church is an offering to God.

They remind us that the path to holiness is built not only in prayer, but also in service—humble, hidden, and faithful.

Because of them, I often find myself turning to Saint Joseph in prayer, asking him to intercede for these generous souls. I entrust their sacrifices, their intentions, and their goodness to his fatherly care. For just as he once cared for Jesus and Mary, I believe he now watches over all those who quietly care for the house of God.

Praise God!

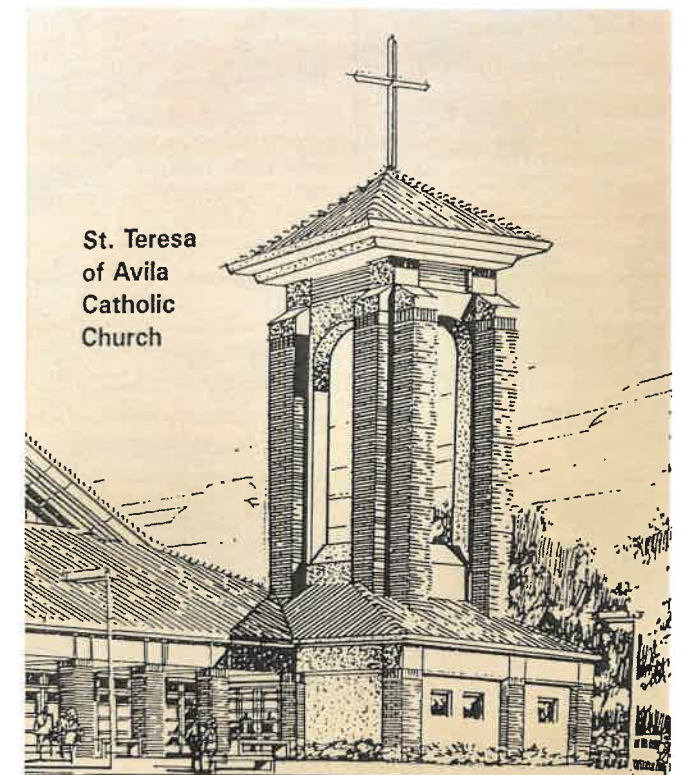
Dear Friends of the Auburn Interfaith Food Closet:

AIFC is celebrating the Easter Season by holding our annual Virtual Easter Food Drive from March 14, 2026, through April 5, 2026. This food drive reflects the deep meaning of the season – giving, renewal and hope. We invite you to join us in our efforts and our mission to provide healthy, nutritious food to those in our community who are hungry and need a helping hand.

As you know, we rely on and are grateful for donations from individuals, families, congregations and businesses in our community. Financial gifts to the Virtual Easter Food Drive help us purchase fresh food to supplement groceries donated by the community.

Donations to the Virtual Easter Food Drive can be made by accessing the 'donate' button on our website auburnfoodcloset.org or by mailing a check to AIFC, P.O. Box 132, Auburn, CA 95604.

Thank You for your generosity in supporting our Virtual Easter Food Drive.



Isaiah 50:4-7

This passage in Isaiah presents the image of the “Suffering Servant,” a figure who listens deeply to God, speaks with wisdom, and remains steadfast even in the face of suffering. For Christians, this passage finds its fullest meaning in Jesus Christ, especially as we reflect during the season of Holy Week.

1. A Disciple Who Listens

“The Lord God has given me a well-trained tongue, that I might know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them.”

The Servant begins not by speaking, but by **listening**. Each morning, he opens his ear to God. This reminds us that before we can teach, guide, or comfort others, we must first become **disciples who listen**.

In our daily lives, we are often quick to speak—quick to advise, correct, or react. But Isaiah invites us into a different posture: one of **silence, attentiveness, and receptivity**. God forms our hearts in quiet moments—through prayer, Scripture, and reflection—so that our words may become instruments of healing.

2. A Voice That Comforts the Weary

The Servant’s mission is not self-centered; it is directed toward “the weary.” His words are meant to **uplift, encourage, and restore**. We live in a world filled with exhaustion—physical, emotional, and spiritual. Many carry unseen burdens.

This passage challenges us: *Are our words life-giving?* Do we speak in a way that brings hope, or do we add to the noise and discouragement?

To follow this example is to become **bearers of compassion**, speaking truth with love, especially to those who are struggling

3. Obedience Even in Suffering

“I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard.”

Here, the tone shifts dramatically. The Servant does not turn away from suffering. Instead, he **embraces it with courage and trust**. He does not resist or retaliate, but remains faithful to God’s will.

This foreshadows the passion of Christ—his arrest, humiliation, and crucifixion. Yet it also speaks to our own lives. Faithfulness to God does not guarantee comfort; at times, it leads us into **misunderstanding, rejection, or sacrifice**.

The Servant teaches us that true strength lies not in avoiding suffering, but in **enduring it with faith and dignity**.

4. Confidence in God’s Help

“The Lord God is my help; therefore

I am not disgraced... I have set my face like flint.”

Despite the pain the Servant remains unshaken.

His confidence is rooted not in himself, but in God.

“Setting one’s face like flint” means having a **firm, unyielding resolve** grounded in trust.

This is the heart of Christian hope: no matter what we face, **God is with us**. Even when we feel abandoned or defeated, God’s presence sustains us and leads us toward vindication.

5. Living the Message Today

This passage invites us into a threefold path:

Listen daily to God, allowing Him to shape our hearts.

- **Speak words of encouragement** to those who are weary.
- **Remain faithful in trials**, trusting in God’s saving help.

As we contemplate this reading, especially in the shadow of Christ’s Passion, we are called not only to admire the Servant—but to **become like Him**.



En el Domingo de Ramos, la Iglesia proclama tanto el triunfo como el sufrimiento. Comenzamos con las palmas en alto, recordando cómo Jesucristo entró en Jerusalén entre aclamaciones de “¡Hosanna!”. Sin embargo, la misma liturgia pronto nos conduce hacia su Pasión. Este contraste se ilumina bellamente con las palabras del profeta Libro de Isaías, especialmente en Isaías 50, 4-7: el tercer cántico del Siervo.

1. El Siervo obediente que escucha

“El Señor Dios me ha dado una lengua de discípulo... para saber decir una palabra de aliento al cansado.”

El Siervo primero escucha antes de hablar. No se trata de una escucha ordinaria, sino de una atención profunda y obediente a Dios. En Cristo esto se cumple perfectamente. Jesús no actúa por su propia voluntad, sino que está siempre en sintonía con el Padre. En el Domingo de Ramos, mientras la multitud lo aclama, Jesús ya sabe que el camino conduce a la Cruz. Aun así, continúa adelante en obediencia.

Enseñanza catequética:

El verdadero discipulado comienza con la escucha. Como Cristo, estamos llamados a acoger la Palabra de Dios cada día para que nuestras palabras y acciones den vida a los demás, especialmente a los cansados.

2. El Siervo sufriente que no se resiste

“Ofrecí la espalda a los que me golpeaban... no escondí el rostro ante insultos y salvazos.” Esta profecía apunta directamente a la Pasión. El mismo Jesús que hoy es recibido con palmas será pronto burlado, azotado y crucificado. No se resiste ni responde con violencia. Su silencio no es debilidad, sino fuerza arraigada en el amor y la confianza.

Relación con el Domingo de Ramos:

La multitud que hoy lo alaba, en pocos días gritará “¡Crucifícalo!”. Jesús acepta ambas cosas sin apartarse de su misión.

Enseñanza catequética:

Cristo nos enseña que el sufrimiento, unido al amor y a la confianza en Dios, se vuelve redentor. Estamos llamados no a buscar venganza, sino a responder con paciencia y perdón.

3. La confianza inquebrantable en Dios
“El Señor Dios es mi ayuda... por eso endurecí mi rostro como pedernal, sabiendo que no quedaría defraudado.”

A pesar del sufrimiento, el Siervo permanece firme. Esta expresión resuena en el Evangelio cuando Jesús “se encamina decididamente” hacia Jerusalén. Su determinación nace de su total confianza en el plan salvador de Dios.

Enseñanza catequética:

La fe no es ausencia de dificultades, sino la valentía de mantenerse firme en medio de ellas. Como Cristo, estamos llamados a confiar en que Dios está con nosotros, incluso en el rechazo, el dolor o la incertidumbre.

4. Del Hosanna a la Cruz... y más allá

El Domingo de Ramos no es solo celebración, sino compromiso. El mismo Jesús que entra con gloria es quien abraza la Cruz. Isaías 50 nos ayuda a comprender que esto no fue casualidad, sino el plan de salvación de Dios que se realiza mediante la obediencia y el amor que se entrega.

Reflexión final

Al sostener nuestras palmas, preguntémonos:

- ¿Escucho a Dios como lo hace Cristo?
- ¿Permanezco fiel cuando seguir a Cristo se vuelve difícil?
- ¿Confío en Dios incluso en el sufrimiento?

El Domingo de Ramos nos invita no solo a alabar a Cristo con los labios, sino a seguirlo con la vida, tanto en la alegría como en el sacrificio.



Philippians 2:6–11:

In his Letter to the Philippians, Saint Paul presents one of the most profound and beautiful summaries of who Jesus is and how He saves us. This passage is not only theology—it is a call to live like Christ.

1. “Though He was in the form of God...”
– The Divinity of Christ

The hymn begins by affirming that Jesus Christ is truly God. He shares fully in the divine nature. Yet, instead of clinging to His divine privileges, He reveals something extraordinary about God: **God is self-giving love.**

This challenges our human tendency to grasp, to hold on to power, status, and recognition.

2. “He emptied Himself...”

Jesus “emptied Himself” (Greek: *kenosis*), not by losing His divinity, but by **taking on humanity**. He became one of us—weak, vulnerable, and dependent. He did not choose the path of glory, but the path of humility. He was born in poverty, lived in obscurity, and served rather than being served. This teaches us that true greatness is not found in elevating ourselves, but in **lowering ourselves in love.**

3. “He humbled Himself... even death on a cross” –

The deepest point of Christ’s humility is His obedience unto death—**even death on a cross**, the most humiliating form of execution in the ancient world. Here we see perfect obedience to the Father. Where humanity often says “my will be done,” Jesus says, “Your will be done.”

This invites us to ask ourselves: “Do we trust God even in suffering? Can we obey even when it costs us something?”

4. “Therefore God highly exalted Him...” – The Glory of Resurrection

Because of His humility and obedience, God exalts Jesus. The resurrection and glorification are not separate from the cross—they are its fulfillment. The name of Jesus is lifted above every name. This means that Jesus Christ is Lord over all creation and is the center of all history. He is the one before whom every person must stand and “Every knee should bend... every tongue confess.”

All creation—heaven, earth, and under the earth—acknowledges Jesus as Lord.

This is not forced submission, but the ultimate recognition of truth: **Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.

5. Application for Our Lives

This passage is not only about Christ—it is about us.

Before presenting this passage, Saint Paul urges: “Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus.”

We are called to:

- Practice humility instead of pride
- Serve rather than dominate the world around us
- Obey God even when it is difficult
- Trust that God will lift us up in His time

We should ask ourselves

1. Where in my life am I holding on to status, pride, or control?
 2. How can I imitate Christ’s humility in my daily relationships?
- Do I truly acknowledge Jesus as Lord—not just in words, but in my choices?

Matthew 27:11–54:

This powerful passage from the Gospel of Saint Matthew brings us face to face with the suffering, death, and mystery of Jesus Christ. It is not merely a story of injustice—it is the revelation of God’s love poured out completely.

1. Jesus Before Pilate – The Silent King
Jesus stands before Pontius Pilate, accused and condemned. Though He is innocent, He does not defend Himself. His silence is not weakness—it is **strength under control**. He entrusts Himself fully to the Father.

Pilate asks, “Are you the King of the Jews?”
Jesus answers, “You say so.”

This is a different kind of kingship. One not built on force, not defended by violence, but rooted in truth and sacrifice

2. The Choice of Barabbas – The Tragedy of Sin
The crowd is given a choice: Jesus or Barabbas.

They choose Barabbas—a criminal—and reject Jesus. This moment reflects a painful truth: **Humanity often chooses what is easier, louder, or more convenient over what is true and good.** Yet, there is also a hidden grace: Jesus takes the place of the guilty. The innocent is condemned so the guilty may go free.

3. The Mocking and Scouring – The Humble King
The soldiers mock Jesus:
They dress Him in a scarlet cloak,
Place a crown of thorns on His head
and mockingly kneel in false homage

They intend to ridicule Him—but unknowingly proclaim a deeper truth: **He truly is King.**

This scene invites us to reflect:

- Do we honor Christ sincerely, or only outwardly?
- Do we mock Him by the way we live?

4. The Crucifixion – Love to the End
Jesus is crucified, an event at the heart of salvation. The cross, once a sign of shame, becomes the **throne of love.**

Even in suffering He remains faithful.

His cry, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” echoes the depth of human suffering. In this moment, Jesus enters fully into our pain, loneliness, and darkness.

5. The Death of Jesus – The Turning Point of History
At the moment of His death, extraordinary signs occur:

- The veil of the temple is torn
- The earth quakes
- Tombs are opened

The tearing of the veil signifies that **the barrier between God and humanity is removed**. Through Jesus, we now have access to the Father.

6. The Centurion’s Confession – A New Beginning
A Roman centurion, witnessing all that happened, declares: “Truly, this was the Son of God.”

This is remarkable: A Gentile recognizes what many others failed to see and at the foot of the cross, faith is born

