

April 1, 2012  
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (B)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 50:6-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

I let them beat my back and pull out my beard.  
I didn't turn aside when they made fun of me  
and spit in my face.

But the LORD God keeps me from being embarrassed.  
And I refuse to give up,  
because I know I will never be ashamed.

The word of the Lord.

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Responsorial Psalm

*Psalm 22:7-8,  
16c-17a and 18,  
19 and 22*

*All: My God, my God,  
why have you abandoned me?*

*Everyone who sees me  
makes fun and sneers.  
They shake their heads,  
and say, "Trust the LORD!  
If you are his favorite,  
let him protect you and keep you safe."*

*All: My God, my God,  
why have you abandoned me?*

*My enemies have tied up  
my hands and my feet.  
I can count all my bones!  
They took my clothes  
and gambled for them.*

*All: My God, my God,  
why have you abandoned me?*

*Don't stay far away, LORD!  
My strength comes from you,  
so hurry and help.  
And when your people meet,  
I will praise you, LORD.*

*All: My God, my God,  
why have you abandoned me?*

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GOSPEL

Mark 15:1-39

(Page 1 of 3)

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

Early in the morning the chief priests, the nation's leaders,  
and the teachers of the Law of Moses  
met together with the whole Jewish council.  
They tied up Jesus and led him off to Pilate.

He asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

"Those are your words," Jesus answered.

The chief priests brought many charges against Jesus.  
Then Pilate questioned him again,  
"Don't you have anything to say?  
Don't you hear what crimes they say you have done?"  
But Jesus did not answer, and Pilate was amazed.

During Passover, Pilate always freed one prisoner  
chosen by the people.  
And at that time there was a prisoner named Barabbas.  
He and some others had been arrested for murder  
during a riot.  
The Jewish people now came and asked Pilate  
to set a prisoner free,  
just as he usually did.

Pilate asked them,  
"Do you want me to free the king of the Jews?"  
Pilate knew that the chief priests had brought Jesus to him  
because they were jealous.

But the chief priests told the crowd to ask Pilate  
to free Barabbas.  
Then Pilate asked the crowd,  
"What do you want me to do with this man  
you say is the king of the Jews?"

They yelled, "Nail him to a cross!"

Pilate asked, "But what crime has he done?"

"Nail him to a cross!" they yelled even louder.

(continued)

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**GOSPEL**

Mark 15:1-39

*(Gospel, page 2 of 3)*

Pilate wanted to please the crowd.  
So he set Barabbas free.  
Then he ordered his soldiers to beat Jesus with a whip  
and nail him to a cross.

The soldiers led Jesus inside the courtyard of the fortress  
and called together the rest of the troops.  
They put a purple robe on him,  
and on his head they placed a crown  
that they had made out of thorn branches.  
They made fun of Jesus and shouted,  
"Hey, you king of the Jews!"  
Then they beat him on the head with a stick.  
They spit on him and kneeled down  
and pretended to worship him.

When the soldiers had finished making fun of Jesus,  
they took off the purple robe.  
They put his own clothes back on him  
and led him off to be nailed to a cross.  
Simon from Cyrene happened to be coming in from a farm,  
and they forced him to carry Jesus' cross.  
Simon was the father of Alexander and Rufus.

The soldiers took Jesus to Golgotha,  
which means "Place of a Skull."  
There they gave him some wine mixed with a drug  
to ease the pain,  
but he refused to drink it.

They nailed Jesus to a cross  
and gambled to see who would get his clothes.  
It was about nine o'clock in the morning  
when they nailed him to the cross.  
On it was a sign that told why he was nailed there.  
It read, "This is the King of the Jews."  
The soldiers also nailed two criminals on crosses,  
one to the right of Jesus and the other to his left.  
So the Scriptures came true which say,  
"He was accused of being a criminal."

*(continued)*

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**GOSPEL**

Mark 15:1-39

*(Gospel, page 3 of 3)*

People who passed by said terrible things about Jesus.  
They shook their heads and shouted,  
"Ha! So you're the one who claimed  
you could tear down the temple  
and build it again in three days.  
Save yourself and come down from the cross!"

The chief priests and the teachers of the Law of Moses  
also made fun of Jesus.  
They said to each other,  
"He saved others, but he can't save himself.  
If he is the Messiah, the king of Israel,  
let him come down from the cross!  
Then we will see and believe."  
The two criminals also said cruel things to Jesus.

About noon the sky turned dark  
and stayed that way until around three o'clock.  
Then about that time Jesus shouted,

"Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?"  
which means, "My God, my God,  
why have you deserted me?"

Some of the people standing there heard Jesus and said,  
"He is calling for Elijah."  
One of them ran and grabbed a sponge.  
After he had soaked it in wine,  
he put it on a stick and held it up to Jesus.  
He said, "Let's wait and see if Elijah will come  
and take him down!"  
Jesus shouted and then died.

At once the curtain in the temple tore in two  
from top to bottom.

A Roman army officer was standing in front of Jesus.  
When the officer saw how Jesus died,  
he said, "This man really was the Son of God!"

**The Gospel of the Lord.**