

salvation. Secondly, Christ's Passion set us an example of obedience, humility, constancy, justice and other virtues which are necessary for our salvation. In the letter of Peter (1: 2:21) it says: *"..Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps"*. Among other reasons, Aquinas says that *"..as man was overcome and deceived by the devil, so also it should be a man that should overthrow the devil; and as man deserved death, so a man by dying should vanquish death. Hence it is written (1 Corinthians 15:57): "Thanks be to God who hath given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." It was accordingly more fitting that we should be delivered by Christ's Passion than simply by God's good-will."*

An extract from the Easter Proclamation in the Roman Missal beautifully reflects Christ's redemption of us through the Cross: *"Our birth would have been no gain, had we not been redeemed. O wonder of your humble care for us! O love, O charity beyond all telling, to ransom a slave you gave away your Son! O truly necessary sin of Adam, destroyed completely by the Death of Christ! O happy fault that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer!"*
-Stephen S

Entrance Antiphon: Six days before the Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they carried palm branches and with a loud voice cried out: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

Responsorial Psalm: 21 Response: My God my God, why have you forsaken me?

Second Reading: Philippians: 2:6-11

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Christ 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 names. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Gospel: Mark 14: 1-15:47

Memorial Acclamation: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

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



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, Cycle B, 2024 Weekly Reflection:

From Suffering to Redemption: (3) Redemption: The prophet Isaiah foretold the suffering of the Messiah when he said (53:12):

"..he poured out his soul to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many...". This is reflected in the Acts of the Apostles (3:18): *"...what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ should suffer..."*. And Jesus Himself said (Matthew 20:28) that the Son of Man had come to give His life as a ransom. Later, after His death, and on the road to Emmaus, He said to the two disciples that it had been written that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in His name to all nations. This, the Catechism of the Catholic Church ("CCC") refers to as the divine plan of salvation and mystery of universal redemption. Redemption through Jesus comes from His example of humanity without sin, His repairing of the bond between God and man which had been broken in the Garden of Eden and His victory over death by His glorious resurrection. Redemption is therefore the act by which Jesus saved us from the slavery of sin by His sacrificial death on the cross. Redemption is Christ liberating us from an old life of sin to freedom of a new life in Him.

The question why Jesus suffered for the redemption of mankind is not an easy one. It was addressed in some detail by St Thomas Aquinas in his Summa Theologica III (Q46 Art 1-3). This is the gist of Aquinas' reasoning. It would have been possible for God to redeem us by means other than the Passion of Christ. However, the Passion was in keeping with God's mercy and justice. Aquinas quotes St Augustine who said that there was no other suitable way of healing than by the Passion. He continues that many other things besides deliverance from sin came together for our salvation through the Passion. First, it showed how much God loves us, such that we should thereby be encouraged to love Him in return and so receive the grace of His