



The Gospel & Homily † el Evangelio y la Homilía

5 April 2020

Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday - Domingo de Pasión: Domingo de Ramos

Special Announcements

We are not meeting for Mass this Sunday. I hope that as you read this you feel the absence of your church family and pray for their safety; and for all those who suffer from sickness. May God protect the faithful.

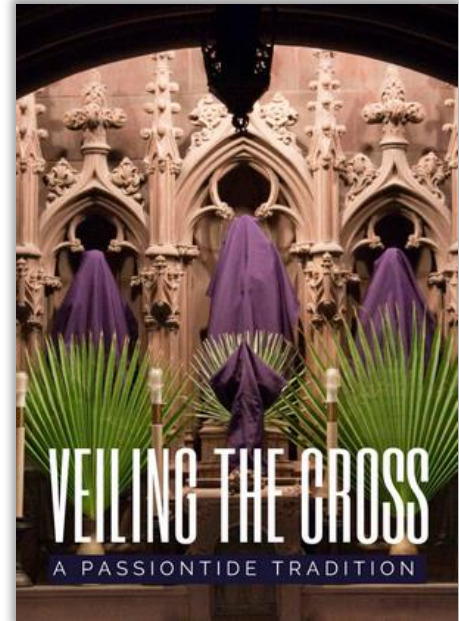
Let us pray for the departure of this virus that changes how we worship and takes away our closeness; but never alters our love and faith in the Lord.

We pray for our loved ones and so many others in the world.

We are steadfast in the face of this challenge, through the courage and example of Jesus Christ.

Other announcements

- Happy Birthday to Chuck on Friday the 10th
- Prayers for Teresa and Lenny as they travel here from New York (Maria's son and his wife)
- Prayers for Rebecca and Jay, pregnant with identical girls (Gloria's niece)
- There will be no Mass for the remainder of April; perhaps longer. We will watch the news carefully and evaluate the safety of our church gathering. Church members will be contacted by phone, text or email regarding the next Mass date. Please also visit the website at <https://spcath.org>



In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

We pray

Suscipe - St. Ignatius Loyola

Take, O Lord, and receive my entire liberty,
my memory, my understanding and my whole will.

All that I am and all that I possess, You have given me:

I surrender it all to You to be disposed of according to Your will.

Give me only Your love and Your grace;

with these I will be rich enough, and will desire nothing more.

† Amen



Confiteor

I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do. And I ask blessed Mary, ever virgin, all the angels and saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

My God, I am sorry for my sins because I have offended you. I know I should love you above all things. Help me to do penance, to do better, and to avoid anything that might lead me to sin. Amen.



Gospel Matthew 27:11-54

Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You say so.” But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?” But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.” Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “Let him be crucified!” Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.” Then the people as a whole answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”



Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.



From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"



Homily

This is the Holy Week of Christian churches all over the world. The story of Jesus returning to Jerusalem and the conclusion of his life on earth is one we have heard all of our lives. We praise God the Father and God the Son. We live our lives and walk with Jesus.

I want to tell you about someone who walked with Jesus during his life. Each year as Easter approaches, it is a good time to talk about another person who is remembered for his faith and powerful commitment to God.

Forty years ago, on March 24th of 1980, the Archbishop of El Salvador was murdered.

His name was Óscar Arnulfo Romero y Galdámez and he was 62 years old. He had been a champion of civil rights and spoke extensively against the oppressive government and their death squads that plundered and murdered without humanity, as well as the several prominent families that owned most of his country.

Many nuns, deacons and priests were murdered during the years preceding the death of Arzobispo Romero. He was becoming prominent on a global level at the time. He received a great deal of media attention; and recognition by the Vatican and the United Nations. Archbishop Romero pleaded for some sort of global intervention to protect Salvadoran people from being killed by government forces. Help did not come in time to save any people or the Archbishop. He was murdered while celebrating Mass.

His funeral was attended by an estimated 250,000 people.

There were 75,000 lives lost in the civil war of El Salvador.

Last year in (October 2018) Arzobispo Romero was declared a Saint of the Church. Surprisingly, this sainthood is acknowledged by the Church of England and the entire Anglican Communion, as well as most Lutheran Churches.

In 2014, El Salvador's main international airport was named after him, becoming Monseñor Óscar Arnulfo Romero International Airport.

Archbishop Romero was not Jesus nor did he pretend to be. His story is very pertinent to what we celebrate during Lent, Holy Week and Easter. Archbishop Romero was sure that he would be silenced by death and declared that he would rise again as the conscience of the Salvadoran people... and he did.



Jesus was resurrected and became part of our collective lives, and lives with us each day in the Holy Spirit. Jesus had walked and talked all over Galilee for several years. He decided to bring the Good News to the big city and the big audience.

So... the homily today is not about my interpretation of this very prominent Gospel of Palm Sunday. I can't say anything to match the special feeling that the Passion of Christ leaves you with. There is no unique perspective left to discuss.

We all know that the Passion of Christ follows Palm Sunday later this week, and so we restrain our celebration of Palm Sunday. But we have an even greater reason to be joyful than the crowd and the disciples who accompanied Jesus into Jerusalem. We know what the Passion accomplished for us and we know about the Resurrection.

Be joyful today; on Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday); individually and collectively, because it marks the beginning of Holy Week and the celebration of the Paschal Mystery. We are the beneficiaries of the great salvation which Holy week commemorates, and that is a very good reason to be joyful.



Evangelio Mateo 27, 11-54

Jesús compareció ante el procurador, Poncio Pilato, quien le preguntó: "¿Eres tú el rey de los judíos?" Jesús respondió: "Tú lo has dicho". Pero nada respondió a las acusaciones que le hacían los sumos sacerdotes y los ancianos. Entonces le dijo Pilato: "¿No oyes todo lo que dicen contra ti?" Pero él nada respondió, hasta el punto de que el procurador se quedó muy extrañado.

Con ocasión de la fiesta de la Pascua, el procurador solía conceder a la multitud la libertad del preso que quisieran. Tenían entonces un preso famoso, llamado Barrabás. Dijo, pues, Pilato a los ahí reunidos: "¿A quién quieren que les deje en libertad: a Barrabás o a Jesús, que se dice el Mesías?" Pilato sabía que se lo habían entregado por envidia. Estando él sentado en el tribunal, su mujer mandó decirle: "No te metas con ese hombre justo, porque hoy he sufrido mucho en sueños por su causa". Mientras tanto, los sumos sacerdotes y los ancianos convencieron a la muchedumbre de que pidieran la libertad de Barrabás y la muerte de Jesús. Así, cuando el procurador les preguntó: "¿A cuál de los dos quieren que les suelte?" Ellos respondieron: "A Barrabás". Pilato les dijo: "¿Y qué voy a hacer con Jesús, que se dice el Mesías?" Respondieron todos: "Crucifícalo". Pilato preguntó: "Pero, ¿qué mal ha hecho?" Mas ellos seguían gritando cada vez con más fuerza: "¡Crucifícalo!"

Entonces Pilato, viendo que nada conseguía y que crecía el tumulto, pidió agua y se lavó las manos ante el pueblo, diciendo: "Yo no me hago responsable de la muerte de este hombre justo. Allá ustedes". Todo el pueblo respondió: "¡Que su sangre caiga sobre nosotros y sobre nuestros hijos!" Entonces Pilato puso en libertad a Barrabás. En cambio a Jesús lo hizo azotar y lo entregó para que lo crucificaran.

Los soldados del procurador llevaron a Jesús al pretorio y reunieron alrededor de él a todo el batallón. Lo desnudaron, le echaron encima un manto de púrpura, trenzaron una corona de espinas y se la pusieron en la cabeza; le pusieron una caña en su mano derecha y, arrodillándose ante él, se burlaban diciendo: "¡Viva el rey de los judíos!", y le escupían. Luego, quitándole la caña, lo golpeaban con ella en la cabeza. Después de que se burlaron de él, le quitaron el manto, le pusieron sus ropas y lo llevaron a crucificar.



Al salir, encontraron a un hombre de Cirene, llamado Simón, y lo obligaron a llevar la cruz. Al llegar a un lugar llamado Gólgota, es decir, "Lugar de la Calavera", le dieron a beber a Jesús vino mezclado con hiel; él lo probó, pero no lo quiso beber. Los que lo crucificaron se repartieron sus vestidos, echando suertes, y se quedaron sentados ahí para custodiarlo. Sobre su cabeza pusieron por escrito la causa de su condena: 'Éste es Jesús, el rey de los judíos'.

Juntamente con él, crucificaron a dos ladrones, uno a su derecha y el otro a su izquierda. Los que pasaban por ahí lo insultaban moviendo la cabeza y gritándole: "Tú, que destruyes el templo y en tres días lo reedificas, sálvate a ti mismo; si eres el Hijo de Dios, baja de la cruz". También se burlaban de él los sumos sacerdotes, los escribas y los ancianos, diciendo: "Ha salvado a otros y no puede salvarse a sí mismo. Si es el rey de Israel, que baje de la cruz y creeremos en él. Ha puesto su confianza en Dios, que Dios lo salve ahora, si es que de verdad lo ama, pues él ha dicho: 'Soy el Hijo de Dios' ". Hasta los ladrones que estaban crucificados a su lado lo injuriaban.

Desde el mediodía hasta las tres de la tarde, se oscureció toda aquella tierra. Y alrededor de las tres, Jesús exclamó con fuerte voz: "Elí, Elí, ¿lemá sabactaní?", que quiere decir: "Dios mío, Dios mío, ¿por qué me has abandonado?" Algunos de los presentes, al oírlo, decían: "Está llamando a Elías". Enseguida uno de ellos fue corriendo a tomar una esponja, la empapó en vinagre y sujetándola a una caña, le ofreció de beber. Pero los otros le dijeron: "Déjalo. Vamos a ver si viene Elías a salvarlo". Entonces Jesús, dando de nuevo un fuerte grito, expiró.

Entonces el velo del templo se rasgó en dos partes, de arriba a abajo, la tierra tembló y las rocas se partieron. Se abrieron los sepulcros y resucitaron muchos justos que habían muerto, y después de la resurrección de Jesús, entraron en la ciudad santa y se aparecieron a mucha gente. Por su parte, el oficial y los que estaban con él custodiando a Jesús, al ver el terremoto y las cosas que ocurrían, se llenaron de un gran temor y dijeron: "Verdaderamente éste era Hijo de Dios".



Homilía

Esta es la Semana Santa de las iglesias cristianas en todo el mundo. La historia de Jesús regresando a Jerusalén y la conclusión de su vida en la tierra es una que hemos escuchado toda nuestra vida. Alabamos a Dios el Padre y a Dios el Hijo. Vivimos nuestras vidas y caminamos con Jesús.

Quiero contarte sobre alguien que caminó con Jesús durante su vida. Cada año a medida que se acerca la Pascua, es un buen momento para hablar de otra persona que es recordada por su fe y su poderoso compromiso con Dios.

Hace cuatro años, el 24 de marzo de 1980, el arzobispo de El Salvador fue asesinado.

Se llamaba Óscar Arnulfo Romero y Galdámez y tenía 62 años. Había sido un defensor de los derechos civiles y habló ampliamente contra el gobierno opresivo y sus escuadrones de la muerte

que saquearon y asesinaron sin humanidad, así como contra las varias familias prominentes que poseían la mayor parte de su país.

Muchas monjas, diáconos y sacerdotes fueron asesinados durante los años anteriores a la muerte de Arzobispo Romero. Se estaba volviendo prominente a nivel mundial en ese momento. Recibió una gran atención de los medios; y reconocimiento por el Vaticano y las Naciones Unidas. El arzobispo Romero abogó por algún tipo de intervención global para proteger al pueblo salvadoreño de ser asesinado por las fuerzas gubernamentales. La ayuda no llegó a tiempo para salvar a ninguna persona o al Arzobispo. Fue asesinado mientras celebraba misa.

A su funeral asistieron unas 250,000 personas.

Se perdieron 75,000 vidas en la guerra civil de El Salvador.

El año pasado (octubre de 2018) Arzobispo Romero fue declarado Santo de la Iglesia. Sorprendentemente, esta santidad es reconocida por la Iglesia de Inglaterra y toda la Comunión Anglicana, así como la mayoría de las iglesias luteranas.

En 2014, el principal aeropuerto internacional de El Salvador lleva su nombre, convirtiéndose en Aeropuerto Internacional Monseñor Óscar Arnulfo Romero.

El arzobispo Romero no era Jesús ni pretendía serlo. Su historia es muy pertinente a lo que celebramos durante la Cuaresma, Semana Santa y Pascua. El arzobispo Romero estaba seguro de que la muerte lo silenciaría y declaró que resucitaría como la conciencia del pueblo salvadoreño ... y lo hizo.

Jesús resucitó y se convirtió en parte de nuestras vidas colectivas, y vive con nosotros cada día en el Espíritu Santo. Jesús había caminado y hablado por toda Galilea durante varios años. Decidió llevar las Buenas Nuevas a la gran ciudad y al gran público.

Entonces ... la homilía de hoy no se trata de mi interpretación de este prominente Evangelio del Domingo de Ramos. No puedo decir nada que coincida con el sentimiento especial que te deja la Pasión de Cristo. No queda una perspectiva única para discutir.

Todos sabemos que la Pasión de Cristo sigue el Domingo de Ramos más adelante esta semana, por lo que restringimos nuestra celebración del Domingo de Ramos. Pero tenemos una razón aún mayor para estar gozosos que la multitud y los discípulos que acompañaron a Jesús a Jerusalén. Sabemos lo que la Pasión logró para nosotros y sabemos acerca de la Resurrección.

Alégrate hoy; el domingo de pasión (Domingo de Ramos); individual y colectivamente, porque marca el comienzo de la Semana Santa y la celebración del misterio pascual. Somos los beneficiarios de la gran salvación que conmemora la Semana Santa, y esa es una muy buena razón para estar alegre.

