

## THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

April 5, 2020

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Matthew 21:1–11 † Isaiah 50:4–7 † Philippians 2:6–11 † Matthew 26:14—27:66



**Reflection by: Sister Patricia Wormann, OP**

Palm Sunday will be different this year—

No palms or flowering branches,

No gathering of crowds but empty churches.

Even the reception of Holy Communion will not be.

Our fast will not be the usual but the extraordinary, imposed on all the world by an unseen virus. No one will be exempt, neither the rich nor the poor—whatever our life situation—we will be part of it. Never before in the history of our modern world have we been called to be so isolated from the people, rituals, customs, and traditions that begin the holiest week of our Church year.

As I prayed in preparation for this reflection, the words of the preface for funerals kept coming to mind: “Life is changed, not ended.” We are invited to walk this sacred week with new eyes. Our faith calls us to see the mystery of the suffering and death of Jesus through communion with suffering humanity. In our isolation, we yearn for the comfort of community, family, and friends. Our hearts ache at our powerlessness to confront this disease. But our faith brings us to do good and to see the grace of God at work as we experience good in the stories of human compassion and sacrifice that we hear of and see on our television screens.

You see, despite the fear, anxiety and suffering of our present situation, we know the end of the story. In the mystery of the cruelty and violence of the cross, in this worldwide pandemic, comes the surprise ending. He is risen, the stone has been rolled back, Jesus goes beyond locked doors and quarantines. He stands in our midst and gives us hope. His peace, which the world cannot give, will sustain us.