

# Lenten Reflection - Palm Sunday

Archbishop Naumann

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## **PASSION OF JESUS - GOSPELS OF MARK & JOHN**

Archbishop Naumann recommends reading and reflecting on the Passion account as it is shared in the Gospels of Mark and/or John. Each of these gospel narratives illustrate the incredible gift that Jesus offers through the greatest love story of His sacrifice on the cross for each of us.

### Psalm 22:2-12

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Why so far from my call for help, from my cries of anguish?

My God, I call by day, but you do not answer;

by night, but I have no relief.

Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the glory of Israel.

In you our fathers trusted; they trusted and you rescued them.

To you they cried out and they escaped; in you they trusted and were not disappointed.

But I am a worm, not a man, scorned by men, despised by the people.

All who see me mock me; they curl their lips and jeer; they shake their heads at me:

"He relied on the LORD—let him deliver him; if he loves him, let him rescue him."

For you drew me forth from the womb, made me safe at my mother's breasts.

Upon you I was thrust from the womb; since my mother bore me you are my God.

Do not stay far from me, for trouble is near, and there is no one to help.

Lord Our God, we bless you.  
As we ponder the Scriptures,  
we ask you in your kindness  
to fill us with the knowledge  
of your will so that,  
pleasing you in all things,  
we may grow  
in every good work.  
We ask this through  
Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Reflection Questions**

- Pilate knows the truth but succumbs to popular opinion in condemning Jesus. When have you faced popular pressure or difficulty in standing up for truth?
- What character(s) in the Passion do you most identify with right now?
- How do the responses of Judas and Peter to their individual betrayals of Jesus end so differently?
- In what ways does the Passion of Christ redefine the symbol of the cross?
- How does Psalm 22 remind us of God's ultimate victory?
- How have you experienced suffering differently as a Christian?

### **Your Faith Journey ...**

- Where have you experienced God's grace in your life?
- How does God's light shine through your life to others?
- Who has God put in your life right now that needs His joy?
- Reflect on your faith journey considering the following:
  - I Was ... God did ... I Am .....
- As you pray through Holy Week, open your heart in deeper surrender to God's plan for your life and trust in His Love!

