



# Hosanna



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SUNDAY LITURGY

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Year B

## INTRODUCTION

The readings of this Sunday invite us to become aware of the unconditional New Covenant that God has created for His chosen people! He has plans for our welfare and not for our harm! This covenant was fulfilled in Jesus who in perfect obedience to the Father gave up himself for our sake! I asked him, "Lord, How much you love me?" and upon the Cross, he stretched out his arms and bled and died for 'me.' Living out this Covenant is a challenge for all of us! We need to die to ourselves; "unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains but a grain of wheat but if it dies, then it bears much fruit."

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength

(Ps 43:1-2)

## COLLECT

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

## FIRST READING

*In the first reading prophet Jeremiah speaks about the sins and disloyalty of the chosen people of God and foretells the destruction of the city and temple and also the long Babylonian exile.*

### A reading from the Book of Jeremiah 31:31-34

"Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant which they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each man teach his neighbour and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

*The Word of the Lord*

## Responsorial Psalm 51

R/ A pure heart create for me,  
O God.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.

**R/ A pure heart create for me,  
O God.**

A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

**R/ A pure heart create for me,  
O God.**

Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me, that I may teach transgressors your ways and sinners may return to you.

**R/ A pure heart create for me,  
O God.**

## SECOND READING

*The letter to the Hebrews was written to the Jewish converts. The author's purpose is to confirm the converts in the Christian faith which they have accepted.*

### **A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews** 5 : 7-9

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard for his godly fear. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and being made perfect he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.

*The Word of the Lord*

### **ACCLAMATION (Jn 12:26)**

If a man serves me says the Lord, he must follow me; wherever I am, my servant will be there too.

## GOSPEL READING

### **A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St John** 12:20-33

Among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew went with Philip and they told Jesus. And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there shall my servant be also; if any one serves me, the Father, will honour him.

"Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify thy name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing by heard it and said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world, now shall the ruler of this world be cast out; and I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." He said this to show by what death he was to die.

*The Gospel of the Lord*

## HOMILY

### **NICENE CREED**

### **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

**Celebrant:** Let us put forth our petitions to the Lord asking for the

grace to be filled with God's love so that we may live as covenantal people that the Lord has chosen as his own as we say:

**'Lord, help us unfold your plans in our lives.'**

1. We pray for our Holy Father Pope Francis, our Archbishop Bernard Moras, all the Bishops, Priests and religious that they may continue to serve the people of God with humility and courage and that they may lead us to God who is unconditional love. Let us pray to the Lord:

**'Lord, help us unfold your plans in our lives.'**

2. We pray for ourselves, that the love of God may be our strength especially when we are faced with trials and sufferings, when we fall into despair and are trapped into temptation. Let us pray to the Lord:

**'Lord, help us unfold your plans in our lives.'**

3. We pray for the old, the sick and the home bound members in our Parish that that they may gain the necessary strength and find fulfillment, joy and consolation in all that they do and that they may be assured of the plans you have for their wellbeing and welfare in the midst of all the struggles they encounter! Let us pray to the Lord:

**'Lord, help us unfold your plans in our lives.'**

4. We pray for all those who lack peace on various accounts of war and violence in our world. Give them the graces that they need so that they may draw strength from the Cross and take Jesus as their model of hope and that they may find joy. Let us pray to the Lord:

**'Lord, help us unfold your plans in our lives.'**

*Pray for your personal intentions...*

**Celebrant:** God of goodness and grace, help us to realize that we are a covenantal people. Help us to look up to the Lord as our Saviour and Redeemer who has suffered and died for us. Give us the grace to break ourselves for the good of others and to be at the service of your kingdom! We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

## **PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Hear us, almighty God, and, having instilled in your servants the teachings of the Christian faith, Holy Father, graciously purify them by the working of this sacrifice. Through Christ our Lord.

## **PREFACE (Lent)**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you have given your children a sacred time for the renewing and purifying of their hearts, that, freed from disordered affections, they may so deal with the things of this passing world as to hold rather to the things that eternally endure.

And so, with all the Angels and Saints, we praise you, as without end we acclaim:

**All:** Holy,

## **COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Amen, Amen, I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit. (*Jn 11:26*)

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We pray, almighty God, that we may always be counted among the members of Christ, in whose Body and Blood we have communion. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

## REFLECTION

Covenant, Cross and Commitment, these three words summarize the theme of the liturgy of the day! We are a covenant people. God made a covenant with the people of Israel: God made a covenant with Noah in the book of Genesis, the Rainbow was the sign of this covenant: “never again will I bring destruction over my people Israel.” With the Decalogue (the Ten Commandments) about which we reflected on the Third Sunday of Lent, we note that God established a conditional Sainaitic Covenant which was handed down to us by Moses. This covenant ended with the fall of the Northern Kingdom because they were disobedient! Thereafter God struck an unconditional covenant with David, however, the Southern Kingdom too went away from God yet God always remained faithful. Today we hear in the first reading of the new covenant that is spoken of in Jeremiah. Jer 3:27 says, “Children will no longer be punished for the sins of their forefathers.” Therefore, as covenant people now we have individual and not collective responsibility anymore.

In Jesus we see the fulfillment of all the covenants mentioned above: The Sainai covenant fulfilled in Jesus through His obedience to the Father upon the cross! The Davidic covenant which is everlasting is established in and through the Resurrection of our Lord that which we await with hope as we sail through the last week of Lent

before Palm Sunday. By the virtue of our baptism we become Children of God and are filled with His grace to live out this covenant by drawing strength from the Cross. The message of the cross is complete absurdity to those who are headed for ruin, but to us who are experiencing salvation it is the power of God. It gives us the strength to live our commitment as Christians bearing witness to the merciful face of our loving Father.

How do we live this commitment? The Gospel gives us two ways: Firstly: Loose our life, so as to save it – deny oneself especially during this time of Lent, through spiritual practices of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. It will help us fight through the spiritual obesity that we have accumulated, help us to shed our egos, our prejudices, help us in ‘Letting Go and Letting God’ and with this spirit filled in our heart, take up our Crosses and follow the Lord who suffered and died for ‘ME.’ We need to believe that only in dying to self will can we let God’s will take shape in our lives! Secondly: Put others First. The world is much more than, ‘I, Me and Myself.’ Reach out, help out, do good... Love of God is concretely shown in Love of neighbour! If we have not yet found something that we can die for, life is still not worth living! Let’s commit ourselves and our lives to a cause! Have a fruitful lent!

- Fr Ryan Savio Rodrigues, SJ

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