**10 APRIL – PALM SUNDAY [C]**

**"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest."**

**The Evangelist Luke celebrates the faith of our King in his Father with the narration of the entry of Jesus in Jerusalem. How does he celebrate his faith? First, by fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah, introducing himself to his people as humble king of peace: “Rejoice heartily, O daughter Zion, shout for joy, O daughter Jerusalem! See, your king shall come to you; a just savior is he, Meek, and riding on an ass, on a colt, the foal of an ass. He shall banish the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem; The warrior's bow shall be banished, and he shall proclaim peace to the nations. His dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. As for you, for the blood of your covenant with me, I will bring forth your prisoners from the dungeon. In the return to the fortress of the waiting prisoners, This very day, I will return you double for your exile.” (Zec 9, 9-12)**

**Then, the faith of Jesus is celebrated as the quoted Psalm attests that Jesus is the eternal love and the mercy of the Father for the salvation of his people, but also that Jesus hands himself over the passion and the death because He knows He is assisted by his God and Lord:** “**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever Let Israel say: His love endures forever.” Let the house of Aaron say: “His love endures forever.” Let those who fear the Lord say: “His love endures forever.” When hard pressed, I cried to the Lord; he brought me into a spacious place. The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me? The Lord is with me; he is my helper. I look in triumph on my enemies. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in humans. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes. All the nations surrounded me, but in the name of the Lord I cut them down. They surrounded meh on every side, but in the name of the Lord I cut them down. They swarmed around me like bees, but they were consumed as quickly as burning thorns; in the name of the Lord I cut them down. I was pushed back and about to fall, but the Lord helped me. The Lord is my strength and my defense; He has become my salvation. Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous: “The Lord’s right hand has done mighty things! The Lord’s right hand is lifted high; the Lord’s right hand has done mighty things!” I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done.**

**The Lord has chastened me severely, but he has not given me over to death. Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord through which the righteous may enter. I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation. The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. The Lord has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad. Lord, save us! Lord, grant us success! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you. The Lord is God, and he has made his light shine on us. With boughs in hand, l join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, and I will exalt you. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.” (Psal 118, 1-29) The passion and the death are not the fruit of men’s wickedness; instead it is the fruit of the faith of Jesus who relies on the help and support of the Father, and also of his love toward the Father who prompts him until making himself a sacrifice and holocaust for the fulfilment of his will, that is will of salvation for humanity.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 19,28-40**

**After he had said this, he proceeded on his journey up to Jerusalem. As he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples. He said, "Go into the village opposite you, and as you enter it you will find a colt tethered on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it here. And if anyone should ask you, 'Why are you untying it?' you will answer, 'The Master has need of it.'" So those who had been sent went off and found everything just as he had told them. And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying this colt?" They answered, "The Master has need of it." So they brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks over the colt, and helped Jesus to mount. As he rode along, the people were spreading their cloaks on the road; and now as he was approaching the slope of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of his disciples began to praise God aloud with joy for all the mighty deeds they had seen. They proclaimed: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest." Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." He said in reply, "I tell you, if they keep silent, the stones will cry out!"**

**Jesus is made gift for the salvation of the world by the Father. The Christian is made gift for the redemption of every man by Christ. As Jesus handed himself over the Word of the Father until the crucifixion, so also every Christian must hand himself over to the Word of Jesus until the crucifixion. What do we notice today? That many disciples of Jesus are handing themselves over to the word of the world and they proclaim, justify, teach as truth of salvation and of redemption. This is true betrayal. It is true handover of Christ Jesus to the world so that He is crucified today, as well. This is a great sin. It is greater than the sin of Judas. Judas had not seen Christ risen and neither crucified. We have seen Him crucified and risen and we hand Him over to the world with no piety. May the Mother of God deliver us from this sad and horrible sin.**