

APRIL 5TH REFLECTION ON TODAY'S READINGS. SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION (PALM SUNDAY)

First Reading Isaiah 50:4-7 The Lord sustains his servant

Second Reading Phil 2:6-11 Christ humbled himself ... even to death on a cross. Therefore, God has exalted him ... every knee should bend at the name of Jesus

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST Mt 26:14 - 27:66

Reflection

264 words

As I write Pope Francis has not yet finished the Mass of this Sunday in St Peter's Basilica, with the participation of nine faithful, nine cantors and Director of the Choir, and six priests who have served the Mass and proclaimed the Passion according to St Matthew.

In his homily, the Pope meditated upon the reality of Christ as a servant. He recalled that Jesus' entire existence was that of a servant, even more, that of a slave, as Paul teaches in Philippians 2. He reminded us of Jesus' profound gesture of service to his friends at his Last Supper with them. He anticipated how we will witness Jesus, in his sufferings and death, as the Lord's Suffering Servant, foretold by the prophet Isaiah.

Francis went on to reflect on our need to know love in order to be able to give love ourselves. He recalled that God's love toward us is that of one who does not expect any return, God loves us because he knows our need of his love.

In acknowledging that today is the 35th World Day of Young People, he urges our young people to give themselves without fear to a life of love. The final sentence of his homily was this: "Give ourselves to loving, no 'ifs' or 'buts', as Jesus did for us!"

At the conclusion of the Prayer of the Faithful, Francis spoke with the confidence of any Christian who knows herself loved by God. "Hear, O Lord, our humble prayer: recognize in our prayer the voice of your Son, Jesus, who offered himself a victim of love for our salvation."