

# Notes on Lectionary Readings MARCH 22-28, 2021

## Brokenness and Belonging

### The Plot

SCRIPTURE OVERVIEW: This week's readings prepare us for Palm Sunday, a joyous event.

### Read Isaiah 50:4-9a.

**Situation** - Israel's son and the servant's obedience.

**Question** - How does your faith community reflect the servant in this reading?

**Prayer** - Oh Lord, may my life reflect the love and Grace of your servant Jesus Christ. Amen.

### Read Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29.

**Theme** - confidence in God's eternal love. God's love is unchanging in the midst of changing situations. This gives us security.

**Questions** - How are you rejoicing in this day that the Lord has made? How are you blessing the one who comes in the name of the Lord"?

**Prayer** - Lord thank you that you transform our lives as you transformed the life of the Rejected One. Lift the lives of all who are needy and oppressed and make Your pathways clear for all. A man.

**Read Philippians 2:5-11.** We may ask from Palm Sunday wasn't Jesus finally going to manifest the fullness of God's power, take his place on the throne of David, and overthrow the Romans? No, because that was not His mission. He came not to build an earthly kingdom but to lay aside His rights. He came to be glorified by being humiliated ... for us. He came to suffer and die ... for us.

**Situation** - Joy in serving and imitating Christ's humility.

**Questions** - How does this hymn of the early Christian community speak to you as you prepare for Holy Week?

**Prayer** - To our Lord Jesus Christ, all power and love, majesty and glory in exaltation forever. Amen.

**Read Mark 11:1-11, 15-18.** Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey, a symbol of kingship in ancient Israel. The people greet him with loud acclamations. He is coming in the name of the Lord! Standing along the road leading into Jerusalem, how could anyone imagine what would happen that following week?

**Situation** - Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey and clears the temple again.

**Questions** - Spend some time imagining the scene of Jesus entering Jerusalem as described in the reading. Where are you in the scene? What do you see? What do you hear around you? What do you feel as you watch this event?

**Prayer** - Dear God help us to see the reality of our world as Jesus did. Amen.