Everything has been fulfilled: Palm Sunday

April 9, 2017

Readings:

Isaiah 50: 4-7

Psalm 22: 8-9: 7-20: 23-24

Philippians 2, 6-11

Matthew 26: 14-27, 66

"But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled,” says Jesus in today's Gospel (Matthew 26:56).

Moreover, we have reached the climax of the liturgical year; the highest summit in the history of salvation, when all that was predicted and promised is to be fulfilled.

At the conclusion of today's extensive Gospel, the work of our redemption will have been fulfilled, the new covenant will be written with the blood of His broken Body, hanged from the cross in the "place of the Skull."

In his Passion, Jesus is "numbered among the wrongdoers," as Isaiah had predicted (Isaiah 53:12). He is definitely revealed as the Suffering Servant announced by the prophet, the long-awaited Messiah whose words of faith and obedience resonate in the first reading and in the psalm of today.

The insults and torments of the first reading and the psalm recur in the Gospel: Jesus is beaten and made white with mockery (Matthew 27:31); His hands and feet are drilled; His enemies draw their garments (Matthew 27,35); And challenge him to prove his divinity by saving himself from suffering (Matthew 27: 39-44).

He remains faithful to God's will until the end, does not turn back during the test. He freely surrenders to his persecutors, confident that, as the first reading reads, "The Lord God is my help ... I will not be ashamed."

As children of Adam's disobedience, we were destined for sin and death, but we have been set free for holiness and life by the perfect obedience of Christ to the Father's will (Romans 5: 12-14, 17-19, Ephesians 2: 2.5.6.

For this reason God greatly exalted him. That is why we have salvation in his name. We know that by following His example of humility and obedience in the trials and crossings of our lives, we will not be left alone. We know, as the centurion of whom the Gospel speaks to us today, that truly this is the Son of God (Matthew 27, 54).