

## **FIRST READING**

*A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah* 50:4-7

The Lord GOD has given me  
a well-trained tongue,  
that I might know how to speak to the weary  
a word that will rouse them.  
Morning after morning  
he opens my ear that I may hear;  
and I have not rebelled,  
have not turned back.  
I gave my back to those who beat me,  
my cheeks to those who plucked my beard;  
my face I did not shield  
from buffets and spitting.

The Lord GOD is my help,  
therefore I am not disgraced;  
I have set my face like flint,  
knowing that I shall not be put to shame.

The word of the Lord.

## **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

*My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?*

## **SECOND READING**

*A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians* 2:6-11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
something to be grasped.  
Rather, he emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
coming in human likeness;  
and found human in appearance,  
he humbled himself,  
becoming obedient to the point of death,  
even death on a cross.  
Because of this, God greatly exalted him

and bestowed on him the name  
which is above every name,  
that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue confess that  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

## **GOSPEL**

*The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew  
27:11-54*

Jesus stood before the governor, Pontius Pilate, who questioned him,  
“Are you the king of the Jews?”

Jesus said, “You say so.”

And when he was accused by the chief priests and elders,  
he made no answer.

Then Pilate said to him,

“Do you not hear how many things they are testifying against  
you?”

But he did not answer him one word,  
so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now on the occasion of the feast  
the governor was accustomed to release to the crowd  
one prisoner whom they wished.

And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas.

So when they had assembled, Pilate said to them,

“Which one do you want me to release to you,  
Barabbas, or Jesus called Christ?”

For he knew that it was out of envy  
that they had handed him over.

While he was still seated on the bench,  
his wife sent him a message,

“Have nothing to do with that righteous man.

I suffered much in a dream today because of him.”

The chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds