

## Palm Sunday - The Self-Emptying Saviour

In this final Lenten Sunday, as we prepare to enter the sacred time of Holy Week, we look again at the significance of Christ in our lives. We recognize him as Saviour, but we look more closely in order to discover just what kind of saviour he is. We find that he has taken the form of a slave and he continues to suffer with us.

We have not been saved through military power but through the kenotic (self-emptying) humility of Jesus. Though he really is in the form of God, Jesus came in the form of a slave. We have a Saviour who was crushed for our iniquities, nailed to a cross as a convicted felon, and there endured the sense of abandonment. Why has God stooped so low? Why did Christ empty himself so completely? We could say that all this happened because Jesus was obedient to God's will in his life, regardless of where it led him. This may be true, but it does not answer the fundamental question: why does God love us with such abandon?

We have a Saviour who first offered himself *for* us and then continues to offer himself *to* us as an example to follow. As he was willing to empty himself for our sake, so we are told to empty ourselves for the sake of others. The best way to enter Holy Week with him is in the company of those with whom he has identified himself: the poor and the broken; the humiliated and the marginalized; those who suffer the abuse of others; those who never use rank to force their will. If we are to be saved we must go where salvation takes place: in our streets and in our homes where violent rages; in the dark corners of life where despair seems to hold sway; wherever the innocent are abused of the needy are neglected; wherever there is misunderstanding or fear or jealousy. We must go wherever Christ empties himself for our sake.