

Passion Sunday



Today's readings suggest that our judgment may be near-sighted. They focus on a good guy who appears to finish last, but in reality finished first.

In the first reading, in the face of severe persecution, the suffering servant "I have set my face like flint . . . I know that I shall not be put to shame."

In the second reading, the advice is to take on the mind-set of Christ. It is a model for Christian living. Christ put aside the privileges of divinity and accepts a life of suffering. He submitted to the depths of death – death on a cross. But god intervened and changes the course of events. All existence was to proclaim that Jesus is Lord. The good guy finished first.

In the Gospel, Jesus is obedient to his Father and has complete confidence in him. He would follow the Father's appointed course, "For the son of man is going as it has been determined." Jesus would contend not only with Roman and Jewish officials but with the power of darkness, "When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness." Jesus prays for his executioners: "Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing." Finally, "Into your hands I commend my spirit."