

The Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Readings: Isaiah 50: 4-7, Phillipians 2: 6-11, Matthew 26: 14 - 27: 66



Fr Jean Marie says:

Today is a day of glory for the Lord, with people acclaiming him as God's messenger: "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." Jesus enters Jerusalem in popular triumph as they acclaim him as their king. We too proclaim him our glorious king, but we must remember that his true kingship was that of the servant of God and people, who died to bring us life and we all want to be like him.

The Palm Sunday celebration is the opening scene of the drama of Holy Week. It points to the two central acts that brought us forgiveness and new life: Jesus' death and resurrection. We acclaim Jesus as our victorious king when we wave our palms, for he will overcome sin and death on Easter Day. But to win this victory, he chose to pass through suffering and death, as we are told in the story of his passion. Let us be one with Jesus in his pain, so that we may also share in his victory. All the readings of today point to the person of Christ.

In the first reading Isaiah speaks of a servant who came to preach but who was beaten and insulted. But this suffering servant remains confident in the Lord and faithful to his mission even when he is persecuted for he relies on God. This suffering servant is a reminder of Jesus who endured his passion and death without abandoning faith in his Father. A few days from now, as we have heard from the passion story, people will shout: "Crucify him!" We understand this better when we reflect on our own lives. We have some days of glorious happiness, of success and joy, but also sad days of contradiction and failure. Today we look at them in the light of the Lord. Seeing the Christ suffer for us, it also helps us to carry our sufferings for him. With him we live happy days, with him we experience sad days, but whether sad or joyful, in all of them we follow the Lord. We must not lose our faith and reject him in sad times and we must not forget him when things are going well for us.

Reflection for Palm Sunday (Passion Sunday) – Year A

A wonderful introduction to Holy Week



Fr Michael says:

I would just like to leave you with a powerful message, which was found in Auschwitz Concentration Camp after the War, among the papers found hidden away in the huts where the prisoners were kept. It helps us enter more fully perhaps into the mind and heart of Jesus as He entered the final phase of His life of salvation and redemption of us:

“Lord remember not only the people of good will

But also the people of ill will!

Do not remember only the sufferings that have been inflicted upon us,
But remember too the fruit that we have bought, as a result of this suffering, the comradeship and loyalty, the humility and courage, the generosity and greatness of heart that has grown out of it.
And when they come to judgement, let all the fruits that we have borne be their forgiveness.”

The “them” that is in the last line of the prayer, is the Gestapo and all their minions who served them and treated with such inhumanity so many of their sisters and brothers – that greatness and uplifting spirituality implied in that last sentence, is brought to totality in what Jesus is offering and sharing with us in His life, suffering and death, leading to His glorious Resurrection and the ultimate gift of God’s Spirit to us all, to become and live as Children of God, Sisters and Brothers of Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit which is mediated through us to build up the Body of Christ on earth, as the prelude to the fullness thereof in the Kingdom!