

Palm Sunday by Father Dave – This weekend, the Church commemorates the Passion of Jesus. Through the Gospel reading, we are invited into the story, to be present with Jesus as He experiences His arrest, suffering, and death. We reflect upon the various figures in the Gospel, those who actively contributed to His persecution, those who stood at a distance, and those who would not partake of the evil that was done. Each year, we are invited to enter into this story, to remember it, to share it, to accompany Jesus during these trials.

It is not the pleasant escape that we might find when we watch a movie or read a book. One day Jesus is being hailed as a superstar as people welcome Him into Jerusalem waving the palm branches. And only a few days later the crowd whom He loves is shouting for His very death. With Him, we witness His closest friends abandon, deny, or watch from a distance. We see the cruelty of rulers and soldiers who mock Him, beat Him, and gamble for His garments. We are asked to remember the horrible death that He endured out of Love for you and me and for all people of all time.

We would think that Jesus' suffering and death would remove suffering from our lives or the lives of those we love. It can be a scary experience when we have to watch someone whom we love to suffer. And we have choices – like the various characters in this story, at some point we will be one of them - we can be like Peter who denies and hides, or the soldier who jeers, or those who watch from a distance, or Pilate who washes his hands and avoids getting involved.

OR – the other choice we have when someone we love is suffering – we can be like Joseph of Arimathea, who refuses to participate in an unjust persecution, or we can be like the women who did not run from the agony of Jesus' death, but tended to His broken and lifeless body, or perhaps we will be like the centurion who praises God, even in the midst of darkness.

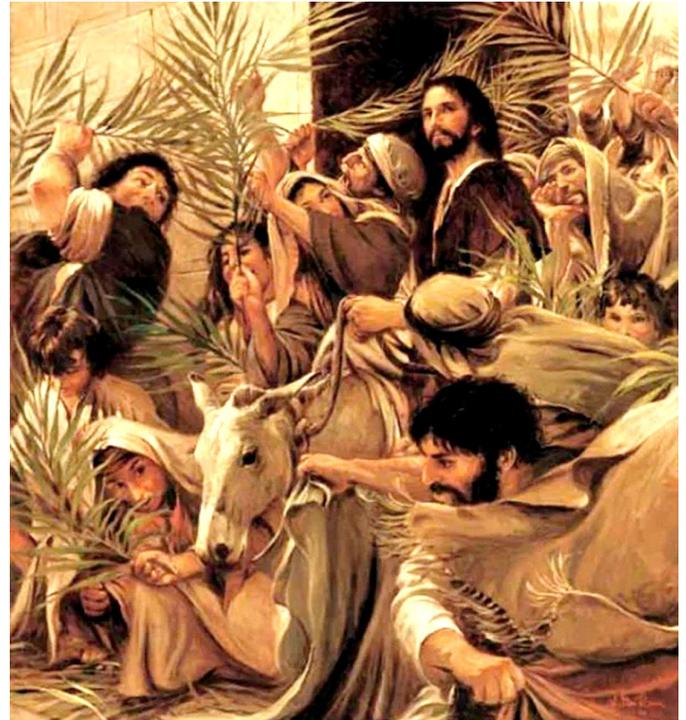
And – when we are called to suffer from sickness or pain, we are called to unite our suffering with the suffering Christ on the cross – calling to mind that it was not only His death that bought our salvation – but the suffering, scourging, spitting, heckling – everything - Jesus made into a prayer as He kept silent to win our salvation. Our sufferings can also be turned into prayers and offered for various needs in the world.

It's much easier, in the midst of affliction and suffering – whether our own, or someone else – to find a distraction so as to avoid the reality of the moment – turning on the T.V., shopping for a new gadget. Yet – each year Palm Sunday beckons us and places suffering squarely in front of us. WHY? Because our suffering, and the suffering of those we love, and the suffering that exists in the world are all bound to Jesus' suffering. We are asked to enter into His Passion – to walk with Him, to accompany Him as He faces cruelty, injustice, pain, abandonment, so that we may walk with others who suffer. We are asked to

accompany them, to be for them what some of the more admirable people were for Jesus in His darkest hour.

As we begin Holy Week, let us open ourselves up to the graces and blessings that He wishes to give to us. Let us be willing to cooperate with those blessings and graces by opening our hearts to those who need us as we accompany them in their needs – just as Jesus did for us, and continues to do for us.

Let us pray for the Conversion of the World
& for Peace



Holy Week – This week the Universal Church commemorates the most solemn of weeks – The Sacred Triduum (NOT Tridium). Beginning with the Holy Thursday evening Mass of the Lord's Supper (7:00 PM), we move to the Good Friday Liturgy (6:00 PM) which includes the veneration of the Cross, and the Easter Vigil which begins Saturday evening 8:30 PM with the lighting of the Easter Fire, the blessing of the Easter Candle, and the proclamation of Sacred Scripture beginning with the Story of Creation, and concluding with the proclamation of the First Easter Sunday and Christ's resurrection. We encourage all to try to participate in at least one of these, if not all -. On Holy Saturday, we will have the blessing of the Easter Baskets at 1pm

BULLETIN REFLECTION

by Father Rody

APRIL 10 2022...PALM SUNDAY...LK 23, 1-49

We reflect on three things for Palm Sunday...

TRIUMPHANT ENTRY TO JERUSALEM

Zechariah 9, 9 Exult greatly, O daughter
Zion!

Shout for joy, O daughter Jerusalem!
Behold: your king is coming to you,
A just savior is he,
Humble, and riding on a donkey...

That's how Jesus was described in the Old Testament as per his entry to Jerusalem. Indeed, they claimed Jesus is their king but majority of them shouted 'crucify him...crucify him.' Now, we face the question was it really a triumphant entry? I will say that it's still a triumphant entry because Jesus just defined for us what kingship is all about...**Mt. 20, 28** *Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.* "...

PEOPLE THROWING PALMS AS HE PASSES BY

To the nomads, whenever they see palm trees in the desert they rejoice. Why? ***It is because palm trees in the desert symbolize oasis...life giving place.*** The Jews were so jubilant to meet their king and they waved and threw palms as He passed by. This king with new definition of kingship for them is the life giving king.

THE USE OF DONKEY

Why not horse? Horses have always been associated with war and they are good in that. But the king we have today is not going to war to deprive others with their lives neither with their liberty...not entering Jerusalem with chariot...rather, entering Jerusalem riding on the donkey. Donkey? It is a sign of a humble arrival of someone who is after peace and not war.

As we hang these palms in our home, we keep reminding ourselves ***'The King has come to this house to bring life to my family.'***

