

PALM SUNDAY – THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of a week unlike any other. Disciples, who are meant to follow their Master, will leave Him.

Enemies like Herod and Pilate will become friends. A kiss will become a sign of death.

The innocent are found guilty while murderers like Barabbas go free. Simple bread and wine become the Body and Blood of the Savior.

Today's Gospel message, which begins with the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, ends at Calvary with the death of the Savior on the cross. Jesus is betrayed by one of his Apostles.

Isaiah the prophet described the suffering servant, Jesus was like a lamb led to the slaughter, a sheep before the shearers. He was oppressed and condemned, yet, he opened not his mouth. All of this He endured for the sake of those he loves.

There is no question that our world is in need of healing. There is no question that humanity is in need of reconciliation with God and with one another. Today, we can find healing and reconciliation with God and with one another. Today, we can find healing and reconciliation through Jesus Christ on the cross.

When we look at the cross, we see Jesus whose body was destroyed, but we know that he was raised to glorified life on the third day.

When we look at Jesus on the cross, we see our salvation, we see our resurrection. Because we have been redeemed by Christ, we are now sons and daughters of God.

We are the body of Christ – we are temples of the Holy Spirit. This is the power of the Cross – that love triumphs over evil, that peace triumphs over violence. Jesus surrendered his life so that we might have eternal life. He defeated sin so that we might have a new relationship with God and with each other.

Today is Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week. On Holy Thursday we will celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper, the institution of the Most Holy Eucharist; on Good Friday we will celebrate the Passion of Jesus; Holy Saturday night and on Easter we celebrate the Mass of the Resurrection.

Your family is invited to join with other families in our parish to celebrate the Easter Triduum.

Let us give thanks and seek God's blessings as we journey this week with Jesus to the Cross and rejoice as family on Easter.

This is our holiest week; it demands our attention and even more our participation. Here is our opportunity to share in Christ's passion, for that is the only way to share in his resurrection.