

## Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord – Year A

This Sunday is Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. On this day the Church recalls the entrance of Christ the Lord into Jerusalem to accomplish his Paschal Mystery (i.e., the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ). Accordingly, the memorial of this entrance of the Lord takes place at all Masses, by means of the Procession or the Solemn Entrance before the Mass (*Roman Missal*).

Palm Sunday also begins Holy Week, the most sacred week of the year. On *Monday* of Holy Week, Jesus entered the temple, made a whip out of chords, flipped the tables of money changers, and drove them out of the sacred space. On *Tuesday* of Holy Week, after Jesus spent much of the day teaching and preaching, Mary anointed Jesus with oil and, in response, Jesus expressed gratitude and appreciation for Mary's tender love and care. On *Wednesday* of Holy Week (Spy Wednesday), Judas went to the chief priests and, for thirty pieces of silver, agreed to turn Jesus in. On *Thursday* of Holy Week, the first day of the Easter Triduum, Jesus gathered together with his Apostles for the Last Supper; at which, Jesus instituted the priesthood, the Holy Eucharist, and gave the *mandatum*: "Love one another as I have loved you." On *Friday* of Holy Week, Jesus underwent his passion and death for love of his Father and of us. On *Saturday* of Holy Week, Jesus went down to the netherworld to raise up the souls of the just. Finally, on *Sunday* of Holy Week, Easter Sunday, Jesus rose from the dead, marking the most important day in the history of the world.

Despite our busy schedules, we would do well to make the most of Holy Week, most especially, by attending the Easter Triduum liturgies: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday or Easter Sunday. In so doing, we are sure to draw closer to Jesus in a way unlike any other throughout the rest of the liturgical year.

*Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord (Mt 21:9).*

Father Frei