

## **Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion (A)** **Walking with Jesus in His Passion**

Isaiah 5:4-7; Psalm 22:8-9,17-18,19-20,23-24; Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We are now entering Holy Week. The Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion serves as our gateway into this blessed week. As we walk with Jesus during his triumphant entry into Jerusalem—waving palm branches and singing: "Hosanna to the Son of David!"—we are reminded that this day, also called the Lord's Passion, marks the shift from a joyful welcome to Jesus' painful journey to Calvary and his death on the cross.

This Sunday is more than just a celebration; it marks the beginning of our deep journey with Jesus in faith, hope, and selfless love to the very end.

When our Lord Jesus entered Jerusalem, He didn't walk into a perfect world. He entered a place filled with tension, fear, and hidden suffering. Amid all this, He met people—people who were tired, anxious, and uncertain. In many ways, what Jesus encountered then reflects our own situation today. Many of our families today bear heavy burdens—from emotional struggles to the daily necessities of life.

Despite these challenges, Jesus chose Jerusalem and embraced suffering. He walked where even the most powerful would not go. He reached the lowest human conditions to bring hope to those seen as hopeless. His suffering on the cross speaks volumes—showing both pain and hope and demonstrating the depth of God's love for us.

As we carry palms and shout "Hosanna!" it creates a wonderful, joyful atmosphere. However, this Holy Week challenges us: Will we stay with Jesus, even up to the Cross? Will we keep walking with Him? As the week progresses, this question becomes more and more clear.

In this spirit, let us not only remember but actively engage in the story of Jesus' greatest sacrifice. Respond by choosing specific ways to dedicate your time, energy, and prayer this Holy Week, knowing that the story concludes with His glorious resurrection. This is the victory of good over evil, forgiveness over sin, and life over death. Let this week be a personal journey into the heart of our salvation by making clear choices to:

- Participate more deeply in the Church's rituals and disciplines. Make a concrete plan to attend Holy Triduum services and intentionally set aside time throughout the week for prayer, fasting, abstinence, and almsgiving. Decide now how and when you will do this.
- Take a moment to humbly kneel before the cross this week. Bring your life and your family to the Lord in prayer, especially for those in need of healing, forgiveness, and redemption. Let Jesus' "dying and rising" inspire you to turn away from sin and embrace new life.
- Set a daily time to pray for people suffering in your community and around the world—be intentional in naming those in need: the sick, poor, victims of violence, refugees, the elderly, unborn children, and those who are alone or ill. Pray specifically for those who harm others, asking God to transform hearts.
- Actively seek opportunities to show love this week. Intentionally perform acts of kindness and care for those who have been hurt or treated unfairly. Remember that their suffering reflects Jesus' pain now. Offer practical support and compassion whenever you see pain or struggle.

Many people who aren't here this Sunday will attend next week and hear the Good News of the resurrection with great joy. We're thankful they come. But because you chose to be here now, you will hear the full story.

Let Jesus' Passion guide your choices. As we await His resurrection, trust God's power to bring hope and good out of every trial.

May you have a blessed and meaningful Holy Week as you walk with Jesus, experiencing His love and guidance each day.

Fr. Manny Hewe  
Pastor