

Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026

I read an editorial recently that made a simple, but profound statement. “The only adequate response to the suffering of another is to co-suffer in love.” In Holy Week, we turn our attention to the Passion of the Lord, the suffering of the Lord. And co-suffering is simply, you could say, an English translation of the Latin word “*compassio*” or “*compassion*” - suffering with. The Church invites us to enter into the Passion of the Lord and to be with him all through the course of this week. Even afterwards, to be one that lingers with. Just a simple word “with.” Let it return to us all throughout the week. “Am I with the Lord? Am I present to the Lord in commemorating all that he suffered, all that he did for our salvation?”

Interestingly, the first few times that Peter is accused, if you will, of being a friend of Jesus, they accuse him them of being “with” Jesus. “*You too were with Jesus the Galilean.*” “*This man was with Jesus in Nazarene.*” So that word has some importance. It is good for us to ponder this week especially. Are we with the Lord, co-suffering with the Lord?

“With the Lord.” The word ‘with’ is a two-directional word. If I am with someone, that someone is also with me. So be mindful of being with the Lord in his suffering and Cross. We are also mindful that he is with us in our times of trial and suffering and that he gives you meaning to that experience.

So let us enter this holiest of weeks with the express intention of being remaining with the Lord because that is what Jesus asked of his disciples. “*Remain here and keep watch with me.*” Let us stay with the Lord, and he with us.