

Palm Sunday
Luke 22: 14 – 23: 56

Every year I look forward, with great anticipation, to Palm Sunday and Holy Week. The scripture describing the Passion of Christ never ceases to take my breath away. Although the story is over 2,000 years old, it becomes alive, almost tangible to me as we read it aloud in church. My heart breaks for Jesus. He is so calm in the face of His betrayal by a beloved disciple and the dreaded knowledge of His looming persecution and execution. Jesus is still forgiving and healing in the midst of the chaos of His arrest and trial by Pontius Pilate. Even as He is crucified, Jesus is drawing in believers with His steadfast acceptance of His fate and unwavering trust in God the Father.

The liturgy of Palm Sunday is moving. Our emotions go from joyful as Jesus enters Jerusalem welcomed with the waving of palms and the shouting of hosannas to the dramatic betrayal, arrest and crucifixion of our beloved Savior. We experience all of those emotions today. We take comfort in knowing that Jesus is ever present no matter what we are going through, whether it be our joys or our sorrows. Whatever we feel, wherever we are - the story that we hear draws us in. It invites us to participate and share in Jesus's journey to the Cross. The story of Palm Sunday and the Cross confronts us with our own brokenness and pain. It confronts us with the suffering and evil of the world. Yet still through it all, we see Jesus - steadfast, calm, peaceful and forgiving. Jesus offers His love to the world in the midst of all of the pain, suffering, injustice and evil that abounds. Through it all, Jesus is offering His love and forgiveness to us. He has overcome the world so that we may live abundant, full lives to the glory of God. May this day and week be a time to experience the peace, love and forgiveness of Christ and reflect on the sacrifice that he willingly made for all of us. May we go forth to share these divine gifts with others. Hosanna in the Highest!

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