

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION C

Brief Homily based on the Gospel [Luke 19:28-40](#) (Before the Procession begins)

Today Jesus begins his Mass with his triumphant procession into Jerusalem. We carry palm branches to relive that historical moment of all time. We become part of the making of history of redemption of all peoples. Let us contemplate that the event is happening here and now. See yourselves among the crowd singing, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

What a joyful event to welcome the Lord into his own city of Jerusalem, Zion, where God has chosen to dwell. He is the Lord and Master of the vineyard, the Lord and Master of the Church and the Lord and Master of every part of our lives. Just as the owner of the donkey allowed Jesus the use of his donkey without prior notice and without hesitation, let us submit wholeheartedly to Jesus' Lordship. Let us serve him lovingly with all our time, talent and treasure.

Finally, just as "the people were spreading their cloaks on the road [and] ... began to praise God aloud with joy", let us lay down our lives at his service. May the Lord Jesus always be loved, praised, glorified and adored in our individual, family and community lives through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen!

Homily for Palm Sunday after the Passion Narrative

Today, we join the whole Church to celebrate Palm Sunday. It signifies the beginning of the Holy Week. Today, Jesus begins the final process of his work of saving us. Accordingly, this week is the holiest of weeks because it is the week in which Jesus accomplished his saving actions. He shows us a wonderful mystery: "he stoops to conquer." This is the mystery of God's love in action. Humility is divinely established as the way to greatness and exaltation. He who is the creator of the world has come to suffer and to die at the hands of his creatures. He has come to teach them how to love. He who is the invisible God took our nature and became visible, to teach us how to be humble. He who is immortal took our mortal nature, that by dying, he will destroy our death, by rising, he will restore our lives and finally come in glory. This is what we celebrate at this time.

It is a weeklong celebration, which no one can afford to miss. God has many blessings stored up for us. All the liturgical ceremonies through which the whole Church submits to the command of the Lord, "Do this in memory of me", are not optional. They are compulsory cele-

brations. The Lord has commanded us to do it and we must therefore not exclude ourselves from the blessings he has destined for all who yield to him. However, God does not want us to do these celebrations out of obligation. Rather, he wants us to respond to him in faith, hope and love. Love is the queen of all virtues. God has forgiven us much, let us love much.

Let us learn from the woman who came and anointed Jesus with a costly ointment of alabaster oil, without counting the cost. Let us resist the selfish spirit of Judas Iscariot who loves material possession more than Jesus, the Prince of Glory. Just like the women – Mary the mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother James the younger – we have the opportunity to go with Jesus all the way to his cross and resurrection. Do all you can to attend and take active participation at the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper, the Good Friday Service of the Crucifixion, the Easter Vigil of the Resurrection and of course, any of the Easter Sunday Masses. And just like Joseph of Arimathea who contributed the costly cloth for Christ's burial, let us contribute fruitfully whatever we can to give God all glory and honor.

May God give us the grace to carry out his will joyfully in this life so that we may be numbered among the saints when they go marching in to everlasting glory – our heavenly Jerusalem, through Christ our Lord. Amen!