

## Palm Sunday

### Sunday, March 24

#### Procession:

Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16

#### Mass:

Is 50:4-7

Ps 22:8-9,17-20,23-24

Phil 2:6-11

Mk 14:1 – 15:47

### Monday, March 25

Is 42:1-7

Ps 27:1-3,13-14

Jn 12:1-11

### Tuesday, March 26

Is 49:1-6

Ps 71:1-4a,5-6b,15,17

Jn 13:21-33,36-38

### Wednesday, March 27

Is 50:4-9a

Ps 69:8-10,21-22,31,33-34

Mt 26:14-25

### Thursday, March 28

#### Holy Thursday

Ex 12:1-8,11-14

Ps 116:12-13,15-18

1 Cor 11:23-26

Jn 13:1-15

### Friday, March 29

#### Good Friday

Is 52:13 – 53:12

Ps 31:2,6,12-13,15-17,25

Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9

Jn 18:1 – 19:42

### Saturday, March 30

#### Holy Saturday

As exciting as this big entrance procession was, Jesus must have carried much trepidation in his heart with the knowledge that he was fulfilling the messianic prophecy from Zechariah 9:9 by triumphantly riding in on a donkey's colt. He knew that many of these same people who were welcoming him so eagerly would soon turn against him and this would set his Father's plan into motion for his suffering, death, and resurrection.

Jesus could have turned back, but he courageously

Imagine the mixed emotions and excitement that day when Jesus, the humble King, entered Jerusalem on the back of a donkey amidst shouts of "Hosanna" and palm branches being waved in the air and tossed at his feet. To live in that time in Jerusalem was to live in a pressure cooker of political and religious upheaval. Many were indeed looking for a Savior, but Jesus knew that not everyone who was jumping up and down had the same expectations of him.

In the crowd, along with his disciples, were those who were ecstatic about the miracles they had witnessed or heard about, and they were convinced that he was the Messiah, the King of Israel. Some were traveling and just curious about who this man could be. Then there were the Pharisees who hated Jesus and distrusted him because they thought his teachings were too loose and he threatened their security, prestige, and status in the community.

As exciting as this big entrance procession was, Jesus must have carried much trepidation in his heart with the knowledge that he was fulfilling the messianic prophecy from Zechariah 9:9 by triumphantly riding in on a donkey's colt. He knew that many of these same people who were welcoming him so eagerly would soon turn against him and this would set his Father's plan into motion for his suffering, death, and resurrection.

Jesus could have turned back, but he courageously

cooperated with his Father's holy will and moved forward in trust. It was not until later after Jesus was glorified and the Holy Spirit enlightened them that his disciples understood all that had happened.

This Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, as we hold our blessed palms in our hands and sing joyful hosannas at Mass, let us be reminded that Jesus, our beloved Savior, modeled for

us the rhythm and hope for our own lives. Because of what Jesus did for us by suffering, dying, and rising from the dead, we too will have joy, followed by sorrow, and then joy once again. Good will conquer evil and life will conquer death.

### Reflect & Discuss:

- † Have there been times when you did not fully understand why things were happening in your life, but later realized that God seemed to be orchestrating everything for your best interest?
- † In what ways are you being called to trust God right now in your life?
- † How should we respond to modern-day Pharisees who feel threatened by the love we show our neighbors?
- † How has the Holy Spirit enlightened you after the fact in ministry?

