

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*Hosanna!*

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord... John 12:13*



It was Palm Sunday, but because of a sore throat, five-year-old Matthew stayed home from church with a babysitter. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds. Matthew inquired as to what they were for.

“People held them over Jesus’ head as he walked by,” his father responded.

“Wouldn’t you just know it?” Matthew complained.

“The one Sunday I don’t go and he shows up!”

So much has changed in the world in recent weeks as we face the unprecedented reality imposed by the Coronavirus pandemic. Our hearts are crying out. Watching television brings tears to our eyes.

Last Sunday, we find Jesus, the Son of God, wept at the tomb of his friend Lazarus. God was weeping for a lost of His friend. Today, in the Garden of Olives and upon the Cross, we find Jesus feels sorrowful, distressed and lonely. It is so moving because we see Jesus sharing his humanity with us. He wants us to know how much he loves us and wants to be with us. The humanity of Jesus is a reality with which we can all identify. Because Jesus got hungry and thirsty, because He got weary and depressed, because He experienced reject, fear and tribulations, we know He understands how we feel in these same situations. We know He understands what it’s like to be human. And just knowing this gives us HOPE. Jesus is God. He has power over life and death.

This Sunday is Palm Sunday, or Passion Sunday and the start of Holy Week. We have tremendous days that follow, particularly Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday/Easter Sunday. While we won’t be able to celebrate Holy Week and Easter physically together in the church because of the “Shelter in place” order, we are always united in spirit as the Body of Christ.

As we accompany Jesus our Savior through his Passion, Death and triumphant Resurrection, we commemorate His sacrificial love for you and me giving us the gift of salvation. Let us turn our eyes and hearts towards Jesus with confidence that we will never walk alone. Spend some quiet time with the Lord by praying the Stations of the Cross, reflecting on the Gospel accounts of the Passion of Christ, the Seven Last Words of Christ on the cross, the Sorrow Mysteries of the Rosary, praying before the crucifix, reading the daily Mass readings are all helpful ways to reflect on our Lord’s final days. “By his wounds we were healed.” Isaiah 53: 5. Sometimes we may not be as thankful as we should be. Think about what cost Jesus to save us? Meditate on Jesus’ Passion as He entered into the darkness and isolation of this world with us so that He could conquer it and give us hope.

We are not alone and God is always with us. He also gives us the Blessed Mother Mary. At the foot of the cross, Jesus beloved Disciple, John, looked upon the cross, trying to make sense of the suffering and

death of our Lord. At that moment, our Lord entrusted Mary to the Beloved Disciple and to all disciples to be our mother. She shows us how to trust God and how to follow Him; she keeps us close to Jesus.

Let us continue to pray for our parish, the universal Church, our nation and our world – particularly those who have died, those who are currently suffering from COVID-19 and those who are caring for them. Though you will not be able to receive the Eucharist, you may still pray the Mass by participating via TV, radio or live streaming. Feel free to check out our church website. Thank you for being part of our parish family.

This week, the Church invites us to accompanying Jesus where Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem with great joy, got arrested, tried and then crucified. After three days, he rose from the dead. The victory was won; sin and death were defeated.

*We adore You, O Christ, and we bless you.*

*Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.*

God Bless,

Sr. Bernadette