

Jesus on the Cross feels the whole weight of the evil. With the force of God's mercy, he conquers it, and defeats it with his resurrection. This is the good that Jesus does for us on the throne of the Cross. Christ's Cross, embraced with love, never leads to sadness, but to joy, the joy of having been saved and of doing a little of what he did on the day of his death.

3. Today in this church, we are celebrating around Jesus, waving our palm branches, expressing our joy at being with him! Everyone has an important part in this celebration of faith! We bring to each other the joy of faith and tell to each other that we must live the faith with enthusiasm, always, even at the age of seventy or eighty. With Christ, the heart never grows old!

Yet all of us know very well that the King whom we follow and who accompanies us is very special: he is a King who loves even to the Cross and who teaches us to serve and to love. And we are not ashamed of his Cross, because we have understood that it is in giving ourselves, in emerging from ourselves that we have true joy and that, with his love, God conquered evil. We must say to the world: to follow Christ is good; to go with Christ is good; the message of Christ is good; to take Jesus to the ends of the earth and of existence, is good!

Let us ask the Blessed Virgin Mary to teach us the joy of meeting Christ, the love with which we must look to the foot of the Cross, the enthusiasm of the young heart with which we must follow him during this Holy Week and throughout our lives. May it be so.

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Holy Thursday 18th April 2019

7.30 pm. Celebration of the Lord's Supper
to 11.00 pm. Adoration in the Marian Room

Good Friday 19th April 2019 (Day of Abstinence and Fast)

10.00 am. Stations of the Cross
3.00 pm. Celebration of the Passion of the Lord

Easter Vigil 20th April 2019

8.00 am. Decorating the Church
6.00 pm. Easter Solemnity

Easter Sunday 21st April 2019

7.00 am. Solemn Easter Mass
9.00 am. Solemn Easter Mass
5.30 pm. Solemn Easter Mass



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Reconciliation at 4.00pm
1st Saturday of the month.

Baptism Preparation at
7pm 1st Thurs of the month

Palm Sunday Year C 14th April 2019—Issue No. 325

COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM

Ant. Mt 21: 9

Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel. Hosanna in the highest.

Greeting of the celebrant

Dear brothers and sisters, since the beginning of Lent until now we have prepared our hearts by penance and charitable works. Today we gather together to herald with the whole Church the beginning of the celebration of our Lord's Paschal Mystery, that is to say, of his Passion and Resurrection. For it was to accomplish this mystery that he entered his own city of Jerusalem.

Therefore, with all faith and devotion, let us commemorate the Lord's entry into the city for our salvation, following in his footsteps, so that being made by his grace partakers of the Cross, we may have a share also in his Resurrection and in his life.

Let us pray. Almighty ever-living God, sanctify † these branches with your blessing, that we who follow Christ the King in exultation, may reach the eternal Jerusalem through him. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

He sprinkles the branches with holy water without saying anything.

A reading from the holy Gospel Luke 19:28-40 *Blessed is he one who comes in the name of the Lord.*

Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as Jesus had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it."

Then they brought the colt to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully, and with a loud voice, for all the deeds of power that they had seen,



saying, “*Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!*” Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “*Teacher, order your disciples to stop.*” Jesus answered, “*I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.*”

Procession

Dear brothers and sisters, like the crowds who acclaimed Jesus in Jerusalem, let us go forth in peace.

The Procession to the church. The thurifer goes first, carrying a thurible with burning incense, then a server, carrying a cross decorated with palm branches according to local custom, between two servers with lighted candles. Then follow all the faithful and the Celebrant, carrying branches and shouting

Antiphon

The children of the Hebrews, carrying olive branches,
went to meet the Lord, crying out and saying:
Hosanna in the highest.

Entrance Hymn (*Hosanna to the Son of David*)

Fr John says the Collect of the Mass, then come the Readings in the usual way.

FIRST READING Isaiah 50:4-7 *I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord helps me, therefore I have not been disgraced.*

The servant of the Lord said: “The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.”

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 22 *R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?*

All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads; “Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver; let him rescue the one in whom he delights!” **R.**

For dogs are all around me; a company of evildoers encircles me. My hands and feet have shriveled; I can count all my bones. **R.**

They divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots. But you, O Lord, do not be far away! O my help, come quickly to my aid! **R.**

I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you: You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! **R.**

SECOND READING Philippians 2:6-11 *Jesus humbled himself. Therefore God highly exalted him.*

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Therefore God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Philippians 2:8-9

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory! Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!

GOSPEL Passion of Jesus according to Luke 22:14-23:56

Offertory Hymn: Here I Am to Worship

Communion Hymn: Who Am I

Recessional Hymn: Let Heaven Rejoice

WE MUST LIVE THE FAITH WITH A YOUNG HEART

1. Jesus entered Jerusalem to show the face of God’s mercy to all of us, to our sicknesses, to our sins. He has awakened great hopes, especially in the hearts of the simple, the humble, the poor, the forgotten, those who do not matter in the eyes of the world. This is Jesus. This is his heart that looks upon all of us, who sees our sicknesses, our sins. Jesus' love is great. And so he entered into Jerusalem with this love. It is a beautiful scene, full of light—the light of his heart full of mercy. The crowd of disciples accompanied him in festive mood, their garments were stretched out before him, there was talk of the miracles he had accomplished, and loud praises were heard: “*Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!*” (Lk 19:38)

Let us repeat all this not only on the Palm Sunday but in all our life. We wave our palms to welcome Jesus. We express our joy at accompanying him, at knowing him to be close, present in us and among us as a friend, and also as a King. Jesus is God but he lowered himself to walk with us. He enlightens us along the journey. And thus today let us welcome him with a young heart and tell the world that it is good to follow Christ! Jesus' message is good. It's good to go to the ends of the earth and teach all the nations about Jesus!

Therefore today is the day of joy. Do not be men and women of sadness: a Christian can never be sad! Never give way to discouragement! Our joy is not a joy that comes from having many possessions, but it comes from having encountered a Person, Jesus, who is among us. It comes from knowing that with him we are never alone, even at difficult moments, even when our life’s journey comes up against problems and obstacles that seem insurmountable, and there are so many of them! This is the moment when the enemy comes, when the devil, often times dressed as an angel, comes and insidiously tells us his word. Let us not listen to him! Let us follow Jesus and accompany Jesus, and above all let us know that he accompanies us and carries us on his shoulders. This is our joy, this is the hope that we must bring to this world.

2. Today is also a day of the Cross as Jesus did not enter the Holy City to receive honours reserved to earthly kings. He was not accompanied by a court nor surrounded by an army as a symbol of power. He was riding on a donkey and received by humble people, simple folk who had the sense to see something more in him; those with a sense of faith that tells them: “*This is the Saviour.*” Jesus entered to be scourged, insulted and abused, as Isaiah foretold in the First Reading. He entered to climb Calvary, carrying his burden of wood. He entered Jerusalem in order to die on the Cross. And it is here that his kingship shines forth in godly fashion: his royal throne is the wood of the Cross!

He takes up to the cross the sin of the world as well as our personal failures in love and respect towards God, towards our neighbour and towards the whole of creation. He cleanses them with his blood, with the mercy and the love of God.