

## **Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord A/2017**

Today we celebrate the entry of Jesus in Jerusalem to accomplish the paschal mystery. The readings of this day remind us of the truth of the tragedy of human life with its lot of contradictions. Sometimes, people praise us for our actions and our deeds. But it does not take too long for them to reject us and say all the bad things they can against us.

The crowd of people who were chanting for Jesus at his entrance in Jerusalem is the same who will boo him at his passion. As human experience has taught us, people very often approach their fellows only in order to obtain favor and help, but once they get what they want, they forget their benefactors.

That is the experience Jesus would have, as those who were lauding him will be those who will be crying: Crucify him. Palm Sunday reminds us how deceiving it is to count on human praises and honors. It shows us how human adulation has its limit and human gloriolo is fragile.

Palm Sunday reminds us that Jesus accepted voluntarily to suffer and die for our sake. As Isaiah says, he did not rebel against the will of the Father. In surrendering and submission, he gave his back to those who beat him and his cheek to those who plucked his beard. To those who spat on him, he did not hide his face. He humbled himself like a slave and became obedient to the point of death, even death on the cross.

For that reason, St Paul affirms, God will exalt him and put him above every name so that all tongues confess him as Lord, to the glory of God the Father. By accepting to die on the cross for our salvation, Jesus has given us a proof of his love. His cross is an act of supreme love that gives everything to the point of laying down his own life.

As it can be attested in human experience, when someone deeply and sincerely loves, he gives all that he has and is. That is exactly what Jesus has done in accepting to die for us. That is why the suffering of Jesus is a healing suffering that brings about salvation to the world. As Jesus gives us by his passion an example of dedication and total love, anytime we, too, accept suffering for the sake of those we love, we repeat in our own body his passion.

However, we have to remember that Jesus was unjustly condemned to death. If that is true, then, anytime that we, too, make people suffer unjustly, we prolong the passion of Jesus. The passion of Jesus challenges us to love totally and unreservedly. It invites us to get rid of violence of all forms, especially when it is against children and innocents. The passion of Jesus invites us to forgive our enemies, as Jesus did on the cross. May God bless you as you suffer for the love you bear for your family, your children, your friends! May you find in the passion of Jesus hope and consolation in your own suffering! God bless you all!

**Isaiah 50: 4-7; Philippians 2: 6-11; Mathew 26: 14-27: 66**



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