

Dear sisters and brothers,

Today is Palm Sunday; also referred to as Passion Sunday. On this day, the Church celebrates the triumphant entry of Christ into Jerusalem in order to accomplish his Paschal Mystery. Jesus does this out of love for us!

Today, all the readings highlight the ordeal and humility of Christ, and how he embraces his Father's will to save us from our sin. Christ undergoes his passion and death willingly; all out of love for us.

Today's celebration is full of symbols. The green palm is a symbol of peace. It also represents royalty and restoration. The crowd symbolizes both praise and denial. This crowd — a stand-in for us — fluctuates, changes sides and switches loyalty, shouting "Hosanna!" today, and "Crucify him!" a couple of days later. Yet, Christ remains steadfast in his resolve to go through his passion and eventual death — all out of love for us!

Today's gospel is from the passion narrative of Christ. It could be divided into three scenes: the arrest of Christ, his arraignment before Roman authorities, and his suffering and death. It is a drama filled with betrayal and violence, but Christ bears all this out of love for us.

May the celebration of today's liturgy give us an understanding of and appreciation for the love that God has for us in his Son Christ Jesus. May we learn to reciprocate this love in some tangible way in our life.

With prayerful wishes and blessings,

Fr. William Rosario