

Homily for Palm Sunday 2025

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today, we begin Holy Week, the most solemn and sacred week of the Church's liturgical year. On this Palm Sunday, we commemorate two pivotal events:

- The triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and
- His Passion and death.

This day invites us to reflect on the profound mystery of our salvation.

At the beginning of our celebration, we hear the account of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Crowds gather to welcome Him, spreading their cloaks and palm branches before Him, crying, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" This joyful procession reminds us that Jesus is indeed the Messiah, the King who comes to bring peace and salvation.

Yet, as we move into the reading of the Passion, the mood shifts dramatically. The cries of "Hosanna" are replaced with shouts of "Crucify him!" The same people who welcomed Jesus turn against Him, and He is betrayed, mocked, and condemned to die on a Cross.

This stark contrast challenges us to examine our own hearts. How often do we praise Jesus with our words but fail to follow Him with our actions? Are we steadfast in our faith, or do we falter when faced with difficulties or the temptation to conform to the world? Palm Sunday reminds us of the call to remain faithful to Christ in all circumstances.

As we reflect on the Passion narrative, we are confronted with the depth of Jesus' love for us. He willingly endures suffering and death to redeem us from sin and open the way to eternal life. On the cross, Jesus reveals the boundless mercy of God—a mercy that forgives, heals, and transforms. His sacrifice is the ultimate expression of love, and it calls us to respond with gratitude and humility.

Palm Sunday also invites us to accompany Jesus on His journey to the cross. This week, we are called to walk with Him through His suffering, to stand with Him in His moments of abandonment, and to share in the mystery of His passion. As we meditate on His sacrifice, let us open our hearts to His grace and allow His love to renew us.

As we begin this Holy Week, let us remember that the story of the Passion does not end at the cross.

It leads to the joy of the resurrection, the victory of life over death. Let us prepare ourselves to celebrate the fullness of this mystery, embracing the cross and the empty tomb with faith and hope.

May this Palm Sunday deepen our love for Jesus and strengthen our resolve to follow Him. Let us take the palm branches we hold today as a symbol of our commitment to live as faithful disciples, proclaiming His love and mercy to the world. Amen.