

## Holy Week Message

For Christians around the world we are approaching the most sacred of times in the Church's liturgical year, Holy Week. That period of time between Palm Sunday (Passion Sunday) and Easter Sunday, which we as Catholics and other Christian denominations celebrate and reflect on the Triduum, the Passion, Crucifixion, Burial, Death and Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. When Jesus, the Son of God, accepts The Father's request, to suffer and die for our sins, that believers, may have Eternal Life with Him and the Father in heaven.

Holy Week gives each of person the opportunity to reflect on their personal relationship with God, Father, the Son (Jesus Christ) and the Holy Spirit, as they share in the experiences which takes place in the life of Jesus during this week. In Sacred Scripture brings to life Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem as the people rejoice in the praising Jesus by the placing of palm branches, with songs and shouts of, *"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"* (Mt 21:9) However, those same shouts of praise quickly change to shouts of condemnation, *"Crucify him, crucify him.... Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!"* (John 19:6 & 15) See how quickly the mood of the crowd changes, how quickly they change our minds. Is it because of what others are doing or saying or perhaps it is because they simply want to fit in? But who is willing to stand alone for what is right, who willing to stand with Jesus in opposition to everyone else?

During this Triduum of Holy Week, from Holy Thursday through Holy Saturday, we are put to the test by being asked the question, 'Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?'. Therefore, we may be faced with asking ourselves, 'What do I do, what have I done that separates me from God's love? How do I reconcile myself with Him?' During this time of world crisis and pandemic, we are called to hold to our faith, to believe and trust in God, to find strength in the words of Psalm 30:4 & 5: *"Sing the praises of the Lord, you his faithful people; praise his holy name. For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night but rejoicing comes in the morning."*

As Catholics and Christians around the world, we gain hope during this Holy Week as we anticipate the Resurrection of Our Lord on Easter Sunday. As people of faith, we continue to give the suffering Jesus we experience this week all praise in this time of crisis, because we place ourselves in Jesus' hands knowing, the Lord will see us through this crisis and make a way somehow. *"Ride on King Jesus! No man can hinder him! Ride on King Jesus, ride on! No man can hinder him. There's a better day a-comin', fair thee well, fair thee well! There's a better day a-comin', fair thee well, fair thee well."*

Let us keep our eyes and minds fixed on the Lord!

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