

## Palm Sunday 2020

- Where Christ goes...so goes the Church...
  - so goes all of us...who truly desire to follow after Him.
- And we know where Jesus is headed this week.
  - For many of us...our focus is on the Resurrection.
    - And rightly so!
    - Because Christ had to be focused on that as well!
  - But He also knew what He must endure in order to get there...
    - And nothing was going to stop Him...
    - Nothing was going to stand in His way from accomplishing His mission.
    - Nothing was going to stop Him from fully surrendering to the Father's will.
  - He had set His face like flint...our first reading says...
    - He was steeled and determined.
    - He was willing to do what it takes...to see it through to the bitter end.
    - For the Glory of God the Father...and for the salvation of our souls.
- And there can be no doubt that we too want to get to the resurrection ourselves.
  - But the question that remains for us is this:
    - How far are you really willing to go in order to get there...
    - How far are you really willing to follow after the Lord...
      - not just this week...
      - but over the course of the rest of your life?
    - Are you willing to Praise God...only when times are good?
    - Or are you willing to Praise Him...even when all seems lost?
      - The loss of your job...your health...
      - The loss of all worldly reason to hope.
    - Are you really willing to trust THAT much in the Father's goodness...
      - THAT much in His loving and saving plan?
- As you go through this week...
  - I want your focus...fixed...firmly on Christ.
  - Watch where He goes...
  - Watch what He does...
  - Watch all the things He is about to endure...
    - willingly...patiently...lovingly!
  - Watch how all of the things He endures...
    - really do work together for the good of those who love Him. (Rom 8:28)
  - That means...
    - every betrayal...every mocking and scourging...
    - even the denial and abandonment of those closest to Him.
      - It all tends towards our Good...
      - adding up to our salvation.
    - But only because He willingly suffered it all...
      - as a part of the Father's loving plan.

- And as you watch Christ...
  - I want you to begin to reflect on this:
    - What are you UNWILLING to suffer?
    - What are you unwilling to endure for the love of Christ
    - What portion of the Cross are you unwilling to pick up and carry...
      - like Simon of Cyrene...
      - in order to bear your share of the load?
  - Some things you will immediately know...
    - other things will need the Lord Himself to bring to light.
  - So ask Him to bring to light...
    - all that holds you back...from your participation in...
      - Jesus' complete and total surrender to the Father's plan.
      - Trusting that all of it...in Christ...really can work for your good.
- And as you do this...
  - It's important to note...
    - that the Lord isn't necessarily going to call you to suffer these things...
    - but your unwillingness even to consider the possibility...
      - it can render your heart bound up by fear...
      - and get in the way of your complete surrender and trust.
    - And that means even things that are unthinkable...
      - what you don't even want to think about right now...
        - as being a possibility for your life...
      - That even those things...
        - really can work for your eternal good.
    - After all...
      - Who would've thought that the Messiah would suffer the way He did?
      - Sure a few prophets did but not many others. (Is 53; Ps 22)
      - For the rest of the people...it was unimaginable.
      - They were too focused on the glory that was to be restored...
        - and not enough on the means it would take...
        - in order to get there.
  - But for us...from our perspective...
    - Jesus' sacrifice is just a given now...
      - we know that it's the only means to our salvation.
    - But don't even we...with our fallen hearts...
      - still want to hold that gift out at a distance...
        - saying that's something for Him endure.
        - Of course I'm grateful for what He did...
        - but I could never...ever...think about doing the same myself.
      - And yet...we must!
  - Where Christ goes...so goes the Church...
    - so goes all of us who truly desire to follow after Him.
- My brothers and sisters...

- Whether it's the Church as a whole...or us as individuals.
- Our own participation in Christ's saving death and resurrection...
  - is something that is only possible with His grace.
- In fact, we need His grace...
  - even just to contemplate the possibilities...
  - of what that might mean for each of our lives.
  - Let alone actually moving step by step with Jesus...
    - as He helps us shoulder the load.
- More on that grace next week as our focus shifts...
  - but for now...
    - contemplate the movements of Christ Himself this week.
  - Spend time with the readings for the various Masses and Liturgies...
    - during this Most Holy of Weeks.
    - Yes, this week especially...
      - as the Lord lavishes His grace...
      - on all our domestic churches.
  - Michelle is sending out some material from [Liturgical Press](#) that might be of help.
    - There are also other resources...
    - from [OSV](#)...many personal blogs...and [monks](#)...even [angels and saints](#)!
    - There's also online adoration! [Here](#) (starting 4/3/20) and many others [Here](#).
  - And do continue to find inspiration from the online resources you already know...
    - like [streamed Masses](#)...
    - or words from [Bishop Barron](#)...
  - But please don't sacrifice time spent directly with the Lord in prayer...
    - for time spent in front of a screen...
    - no matter how good the content may be.
  - Never let the good get in the way of the best.
    - Our time right now is just too valuable.
    - So we need to be discerning...
      - as we do our best...
      - to humbly follow after the Lord...
      - on the way to Eternal glory.
- I'll leave you with this prayer I just came across which seems to sum all this up:
  - *My Savior and my God! Let me remember, in every care and anxiety of my life, what you suffered for my sake. Let me remember the anguish which prompted you to exclaim, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me!" Forsake me not, my Redeemer: in every care and anxiety, raise up my soul towards you, and enable me to exclaim with confidence, Help me, O God, and have mercy on me, you who redeemed me with your precious blood. When all is consummated for me on earth, may I hear your loving voice exclaim, "Come, blessed of my Father: come, you for whom I suffered so much: your toils and your trials are at an end: come and receive the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world." Amen.*