

Sunday, March 28, 2021

Palm Sunday

Entering into Holy Week

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” -
Mark 11:9

The crowds cried “Hosanna, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.” That is what we hear in this Palm Sunday Gospel from St. Mark as Jesus enters Jerusalem. Only days later will the fickle crowd turn on Him and be swayed by public opinion and religious and political pressure. For the last couple of years of His ministry, the people across the landscape who knew of Jesus’ works had formed one of three opinions: They loved Him and believed in Him; they had heard of Him and knew that He drew crowds but were not ready to ‘buy in’; or third, they questioned and in fact despised Him as a blasphemer and sought some way to trap Him.

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” These words sound familiar, don’t they? We proclaim these words each time we celebrate the Eucharist when we recite or sing the Sanctus or Holy, Holy, Holy. Because of our faith, we recognize our Lord by proclaiming Him as king at every Mass. Yet, like the fickle crowd, when we leave church and return to society, we can fall back into our old, potentially sinful habits – and by doing so, fail to acknowledge Him as Lord and Savior.

This week enter into Holy Week. Make it a point to stay focused on what the meaning of this important time is. The entire week’s readings are a dramatic account of what our Lord endured over 2000 years ago. Take time to walk with our Lord, and draw closer to Him through participation in the various liturgies of

this week. And if you haven't been to church in a while, I invite you to come home this week to experience God's great love for you.

- Bishop Gregory Parkes