



# BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

March 28, 2021

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Lectionary: 37 and 38

## At the Procession with Palms – Gospel Mk 11:1-10

When Jesus and his disciples drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately on entering it, you will find a colt tethered on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone should say to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ reply, ‘The Master has need of it and will send it back here at once.’” So they went off and found a colt tethered at a gate outside on the street, and they untied it. Some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” They answered them just as Jesus had told them to, and they permitted them to do it. So they brought the colt to Jesus and put their cloaks over it. And he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out: “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come! Hosanna in the highest!”

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**Spiritual Reflection:** Besides the blessing and passing out of palm branches the other thing that makes today's Mass different from the other Masses we celebrate throughout the year is that today we have two Gospels. The first Gospel tells of Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem and the second Gospel is of course an account of the Passion of Christ. The thought occurred to me to simply ask the question: “What if today we only had one Gospel today?” “What if instead of going to the Cross the Gospel of Christ simply stops with His triumphant entrance into Jerusalem?”

Spiritual Questions:

1. What if there were no Passion Stories in the Gospel?
2. Would you follow a non-suffering Christ?
3. How much greater is the Gospel because of the Passion stories?
4. How much better are God's plans than our own?
5. What is Jesus' ultimate victory?