

PALM SUNDAY

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord"

(Mark 14:1 - 15:47)

With our palms raised and with our cries of "Hosanna" we have started what our elders called "The Great Week" or "Holy Week." The feelings fluctuate from the joy of the one who arrives in Jerusalem to shouts of joy and welcome to the pain and sadness He will suffer innocently through his crucifixion. He gives his life out of love for us. ***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord...***

Personally, at the beginning of Holy Week, I am reminded of my childhood and that inner child that still lives within each of us. Indeed, every Palm Sunday reminds me of my grandmother who beautifully crafted the palm crosses with her own hands. It reminds me of the deep faith that my grandparents had and their humble membership in the Church that was a part of them as they sang Church songs and as they went through the neighborhood. Today as an adult and priest, reading the Passion of the Lord reminds me of the LOVE of Jesus, the Only Son of God, who gave his life for the salvation of many. The Passion of Jesus is a reminder of our faith that does not end in despair, pain and death but rather, through the salvific action of Jesus Crucified, it is the proclamation that death has been conquered. Today is when we really understand what we reflected on at the beginning of Lent, "When I am lifted up, then I will draw everyone to myself." Jesus attracts us all with his redemptive power and makes our voices rise and shout again: ***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord ...***

How sad it is to remember that in the Passion of Jesus, the mobs with malice and resentment shout, "Crucify him, crucify him." How was it possible to go from joy to contempt? How do we explain the transition from joy to the desire for revenge and death? Undoubtedly the questions are many and they continue to remain in the middle of our hearts since, like the

mobs of yesterday, we forget the one who lived a life given to others by love. That is why it is good to remember that Jesus went about doing good. The challenge to live the Holy Week is to make myself another Jesus and turn my gaze to the crucified of today. Along with devotion and prayers, there are other sacrifices that we can and must make for the benefit of those who suffer around us; we are all called to carry the cross of others. May our efforts to help the children of Tarahumara or our relatives and the poor around us make us shout louder: **BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!**

Fr. Hernán, SJ

“The tragedy we are experiencing calls us to take seriously the things that are serious and not get caught up in the things that matter least; rediscover that life is useless if it is not used to serve others. Because life is measured by love” (Pope Francis).