

April 13-14, 2019

Palm/Passion Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-7

Philippians 2:6-11

Luke 22:14-23:56

The people of Paradise, California, will NEVER forget the November, 2018 fire that killed 85 people and destroyed their entire town. The German Jews still living who experienced Kristallnacht on November 9-10 of 1938 will never forget how their lives speedily spiraled downward into the chaos of the Holocaust. Those who were enjoying a beautiful late Summer morning in New York City will never forget where they were when the planes hit and the towers came down on September 11, 2001. As much as we pursue and crave HAPPINESS, many of us cannot remember the details of assorted HAPPY moments. Happiness comes, happiness goes, and we live our lives pretty much unchanged. Nightmares, disasters and upheavals change our lives; who we become AFTER the dark experiences and tragedies of life is NOT whom we were before. So it is that we as Christians of all faiths commemorate Palm/Passion Weekend with the first full recitation of the Passion of Jesus Christ. This is the crucial redemptive and CENTRAL story around which God ALLOWS us to reject him, torment him, torture him, kill him and discard his corpse in a borrowed grave....all so that he may demonstrate his unfathomable love for us. None of us HEARING the Passion narrative were present in Jerusalem when the details of the story occurred. Indeed, most of Jerusalem did not take notice of most of the things that grab our attention: Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem across strewn palms, the washing of the disciple's feet, the breaking of the bread or the passing of the cup, the torture and mockery committed against Jesus by the Roman soldiers, the nailing of Jesus to the Cross, the anguish of a mother watching her son die before her eyes. Yet, this weekend...we reawaken this story within us; this is HOW MUCH GOD LOVES US, that he will allow us to throw the direst of tantrums and allow us to humiliate and kill him. THIS story has changed human history and presumably it has changed the lives of each of us here at this Mass. In overlaying this story on our own times, can we see ourselves in any of the characters? Have we rushed by and ignored the presence of Jesus on the streets of Yorba Linda? Have people unexpectedly comforted (washed our feet) us when we most needed it? Have we felt judged and rejected by our society, our family, those we thought we could trust? Have we been too frightened to stand with someone in trouble? Have we been part of the CROWD screaming for Jesus' crucifixion rather than the ones who stood by him to the end? For 2,000+ years this story has been retold...BECAUSE IT IS OUR STORY...the story of us at our WORST...and how God still chooses to redeem and love us. There was nothing pleasant or happy about Good Friday, but because of that day, everything for evermore has changed...including us.

Thank you for sharing these early hours of Holy Week with our Santa Clara community on this Palm/Passion weekend. Blessed Palms are available outside following Mass on the Courtyard side, feel free to take as many as you wish (please do not take any of the palms INSIDE the Hall...they are NOT blessed.) *You are reminded of the TRIDUUM which begins on Holy Thursday at 7pm, continues on Good Friday at 7pm and concludes on Holy Saturday at 7pm. **There is NO 5pm Mass on Holy Saturday and no confessions either.** On Easter Sunday, the Mass schedule is the usual Sunday schedule of 8am, 10am and 12noon.* All Masses are crowded (of course.... it's Easter!) so please allow yourselves ample time to arrive early to find parking and get seated. Parking will be available on both sides of the street as well as on the field behind the fence...please use caution when crossing the road. Knowing there will be plenty of extended family and new friends joining us on Easter Weekend, please, please, please, come prepared to SMILE at the people in your usual seats, WELCOME the people you do not recognize, GREET those who look confused and guide those who are obviously lost...especially when they need to locate the restrooms. Let's give ALL our visitors a reason to return to worship with us again and again and again. THANKS!! Welcome to Holy Week...and remember, you are loved. FKB