

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Dr. Rosemary Murphy

For our faith life, this week, Holy Week, is the most important time of our entire year—both for our secular year and for our liturgical cycle. It is a week filled with graces and blessings. It is a sacred time that can change us if we commit to one thing: walking the week with Jesus by attending our parish schedule of services. This takes a bit of effort.

First, we need to be attentive to our disposition. We must “lean into” Holy Week by quieting our environment, our devices, and our distraction-prone minds. This will not be easy as the forces of evil work overtime during Lent and especially during Holy Week.

Second, we need to find time to sit quietly with our bible, open to Matthew’s Passion Narrative. We can set a timer and choose a gospel scene for meditation and adoration: Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem; the Last Supper and betrayal; the Roman trial and crucifixion, the resurrection and commission.

Third, we cannot walk the week alone. If we are not to give in to the temptations that will assail us—and again we cannot minimize the presence of forces that would try to turn our attention away from Jesus—we need to pray. We need to pray in communion with one another and with our church throughout the world.

Palm Sunday sets the scene for a great spiritual drama. As our presider blesses the palms, symbols of our Triduum commitment, we will hear special prayers that can carry us through the dark hours of Holy Week to the splendor of the Resurrection.

*Increase the faith of those who
place their hope in you, O God,
And graciously hear the prayers of those
who call upon you,
That we, who today hold high these branches
To hail Christ in his triumph,
May bear fruit for you by
Good works accomplished in him.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen*

Collect for Palm Sunday Procession 2023