

PALM SUNDAY GOSPEL HOMILY LUKE

1. Waving palms we join the crowds welcoming Jesus into his kingdom
 - a. Jesus is being welcomed by the Galileans
 - b. They are crowds that appreciated what he did in His ministry among them
 - i. Risk Jesus knows He is taking is that this will make the authorities nervous they will see him as an agitator
 - ii. Ironic because He comes riding a colt not a powerful steed
 - iii. this is not ordinary king who will ride roughshod over anyone in the way
 - iv. Humble prophet while offering healing is strong enough to stand up for himself even if it means death on a cross
 - c. Jesus knows well that He is putting himself at risk but He see this as God's will
 - d. He needs to stand up even to the authorities, even if this will put him in danger
2. During Holy Week we will commemorate the sacrifice Jesus made for us
 - a. We begin Holy Week with solemn reading of Passion
 - b. We join Jesus with both hope and anxiety
 - i. Hope is that we will become a new and loving person worthy to welcome Jesus in our hearts
 - ii. Anxiety is realizing we must follow the road of Jesus to become that new person
 1. Know that we must give up our egoism and pride that causes us to look down on neighbor
 2. Jesus calling us to have strength and courage to forgive those who have offended us
 3. Also called us to have humility of seeking forgiveness of those whom we have offended
3. Palm Sunday is really about the two sides of faith
 - a. When we joined the Church in Baptism there was celebration and joy
 - b. Living and practicing our faith requires discipline and sacrifice
 - c. Center of our faith is a bout forgiveness
 - d. Realizing that we need forgiveness from God and our neighbors
 - e. And that we need to seek to forgive whatever offenses and hurts we may have experienced
 - f. Through this struggle to purify ourselves and live in imitation of Jesus
 - g. We can join ourselves to the suffering of Jesus that wwe will be reminded of in the reading of the Passion