

April 13, 2025

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Lent



Center for Spiritual Development

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's Second Reading

*"Christ became obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross."*

PHILIPPIANS 2:8

Reflection

Palm Sunday, a day of preparation for the stark reality of Jesus' last day. This next week, called Holy, although horrific in its brutality to our suffering servant, culminates with the total self-gift for our salvation. Jesus overcomes death through Resurrection. Some 2000 years later we still celebrate, remember, believe, and marvel at how he loved us at the expense of his physical life.

Amid rejoicing and hosannas, we celebrate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem,

where the crowds honor him as Messiah. And then, in the blink of an eye, the crowd turns so we end with the harsh reality of torture and death, an all too familiar human trait that has continued through time. Much like Jesus, my lived experience of light and darkness, joy and sorrow intertwine to mark the days of my life.

The Scripture is so very familiar that it is easy to just gloss over the narrative and take it for granted as a long-ago event. Yet, every year as we enter Holy Week, I am challenged to take the story seriously, engage the reality, and integrate the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus into my own life.

So, I ask myself how to prepare my heart and soul for this profound and somber story of the cost of my salvation. Jesus, the reflection of God in human form, desires to be in personal relationship with me and with you. How do I intend to engage the story more personally today?

Similar to companioning a family member or friend through the last days as they journey into God, I am drawn to companion Jesus each step of Holy Week, for his story is tied to my own reality. He who first loved me and you, desires us to reflect, pray, listen, wait, and take in the gift of the Passion that overcomes death and leads to New Life, Life everlasting.

I find it helpful to engage each of the people that occupy the journey of Jesus. Using Ignatian, imaginative prayer, I ponder their experience as though I were in the story myself. It is amazing what is revealed about my own attitude, emotional response, and insights each time I pray this way. This way of engaging with God helps me put on the mind and heart of Jesus. It also helps me come home to my true self.



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For Pondering

- How shall you prepare your heart for the spiritual journey through Holy Week?
 - Who will you walk with through the journey?
 - Watch and enter into the movie: **Jesus of Nazareth** by **Franco Zeffirelli** (1977). It is timeless. (Find on YouTube or Netflix, or at your public library.)
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For Prayer

To pray after reading the Passion story or watching the movie:

Let us walk in the Holy Presence:

What did you notice?

What emotions stirred in you?

What did you admire?

What astonished you?

What was the most tender?

What did you think was happening?

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