

March 24, 2024

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Lent



Center for Spiritual Development

BEGINNING THE CELEBRATION OF THE PASCHAL MYSTERY

By Sr. Katherine "Kit" Gray, CSJ

Prayer Before the Palm Sunday Procession

*Dear brothers and sisters,
Since the beginning of Lent until now
we have prepared our hearts by penance and charitable works.
Today we gather together to herald with the whole Church
the beginning of the celebration of our Lord's Paschal Mystery,
that is to say, of his Passion and Resurrection.
For it was to accomplish this mystery
that he entered into his own city of Jerusalem.
Therefore, with all faith and devotion,
let us commemorate
the Lord's entry into the city for our salvation,
following in his footsteps,
so that, being made by his grace partakers of the Cross,
we may have a share in his Resurrection and in his life.*

Reflection

Several years ago, because I was part of the group planning the Palm Sunday celebration for our Community, I “paid more attention” to all the prayers and readings for the liturgy. The prayer that precedes the procession with palms has become very meaningful for me. I offer some suggestions for your reflection on this prayer that begins Holy Week.

Dear brothers and sisters,
Since the beginning of Lent until now
we have prepared our hearts by penance and charitable works.

What have been the challenges and graces of this Lent?

How am I approaching Holy Week?

How is my heart prepared for the celebration of Holy Week?

Today we gather together to herald with the whole Church

How do I/can I unite myself with the Church throughout the world?

the beginning of the celebration of our Lord’s Paschal Mystery,
that is to say, of his Passion and Resurrection.

What am I/what are we celebrating in the Paschal Mystery?

For it was to accomplish this mystery
that he entered into his own city of Jerusalem.

How did Jesus enter “his own city,” his hometown? the world?

How does Christ enter our “city” now?

How did “his own city” respond to Jesus?

Therefore, with all faith and devotion,

How will I express my faith and devotion this week?

let us commemorate
the Lord’s entry into the city for our salvation,
following in his footsteps,

What does following in his footsteps mean to me on a daily basis?

so that, being made by his grace partakers of the Cross,
we may have a share in his Resurrection and in his life.

How have I partaken in the Cross and shared the Resurrection?



Palm fronds
Photo by Liz Romo

For Prayer

*Almighty and ever living God,
in your tender love for the human race
you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon himself our nature,
and to suffer death upon the cross,
giving us the example of his great humility;
Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering,
and also share in his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.*

COLLECT FOR PALM SUNDAY, ANGLICAN

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