

TRINITY NEWS

Palm Sunday and Holy Week

The Jews made pilgrimages to Jerusalem for Passover. It was the location of Mount Zion, a sacred space in their religion. The Ark of the Covenant was a focus of the Divine Presence in the Temple. The greatest festival was Passover, their remembrance of their deliverance from servitude in Egypt under the leadership of Moses in the Exodus. The Exodus is the Master Story of Judaism and the Passion of Christ, introduced by Palm Sunday, is the Christian Master Story.

The days leading up to the Passover celebration that year were ushered in by some strange happenings in the entry of the messianic prophet Jesus from Galilee with his retinue. The account of that entry in Matthew has the people cry out, "Who is this?" and the crowd responds, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee" (Matthew 21: 10-11).

The messianic prophet from Galilee riding into Jerusalem on a beast of burden is not swayed by the cries of "Hosanna" that signal the arrival of the Messiah: "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, hosanna in the highest." There is in his heart and mind the perception that such statements can soon change to words of fury and deadly intent. He is authenticated by the Spirit of God and that can overcome all obstacles. He IS his own statement of integrity and grace. He is as unstoppable as the procession itself, which must end at the temple. He glances from side to side and sees the fickle and the disturbed and those with love on their faces encased in radiant smiles. True holiness exposes what is unholy, and deep love exposes what is shallow and self-seeking. The beauty of soul exposes darkness in souls and provokes rage from the darkness.

It is the most upbeat moment of his life, but it also contains the seeds of his destruction. He is not only a threat to the religious and political establishments. He is also a threat to every self-seeking person who comes across his path. Silent assurance in a person confirmed by an inbuilt sense of character and self-worth is a challenge to many people. We rejoice in this moment with him. We will journey with him through Holy Week and weep with his mother at his suffering and death.

We will learn fresh understandings of the imitation of Christ and enter the glory of his resurrection. We should never blame our own flaws on anyone. But we can learn and retain added strength of character from the integrity of others. "No one can put a good person down." This saying is grounded in the integrity of authentic self-worth. Jesus is not only on parade in the procession: his presence touches the crowd as he passes.

The shroud of the Spirit dropped over him at the Jordan and it never left him. What he had in himself coincided with his outer persona and moved the hearts of the people. May this Holy Week leave us more assured, less prone to be defensive, and more able to accept others in our imitation of the one we follow on the way to God.

Bishop Arthur Jones

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULES:

March 21-23 Monday-Wednesday.

- Holy Eucharist, 7:00pm.

March 24. Maundy Thursday.

- Eucharist and Washing of the Feet, 7:00pm

March 25. Good Friday.

- The Way of the Cross, 11:00am
- Liturgy of Good Friday, 12:00nn

March 27. Easter Sunday.

- Regular Eucharist, 7:30am and 9:30am. Easter egg hunt follows after the 9:30am service.

THIS WEEK:

Monday.

- Finance Committee Meeting, 5:30pm, Parish Office
- Vestry meeting, 7:30pm (*after the Eucharist*)

Wednesday.

- Bible Study, 10am
- Group Discussion, 7:30pm

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:

Acts 10:34-43 ; Psalm 118
Colossians 3:1-4; Luke 24:1-10