

Palm Sunday

(2014)

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- Much of this homily I gave Friday, so my apologies to those who heard it already. But I keep thinking about it.
- Every Palm Sunday we have the privilege of immersing ourselves in Jesus passion. There is so much, and any homily will be inescapably limping to try to explain even a morsel of it...so it's best to simply remember a few things and let the Gospel speak for itself.
- Why did Jesus come to us—the divine taking the nature of man...to eventually die this most ignominious, disgraceful, unjust, and agonizing execution as we just heard?
- Simple. For love. Love of you.
- Because God is infinite, no finite being—not even the most perfect angel—could atone for even a single offense against God; only God Himself.
- And so, as St. Anselm tells us: “...to redeem man it was necessary that God should become man.” As God only He could not suffer; as man only He could not redeem...and so God assumed human nature.
- He who could punish chose rather to love to the highest possible degree...giving His life for His beloved. For you.
- God might have chosen another means for redeeming man...but He chose this way...the show to us irrefutably the depth of His love for us.
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- So...as we enter Holy Week, let us accompany Our Lord in His struggles in prayer and in the Holy Week liturgies.
- Let us be the true disciples...true friends...who strengthen His courage with our presence...upon whose faith and love He leans upon for support in His trials.
- “Oh, Father... we are simply commemorating the events of the past.”
- Are we? Is that really all we're doing?

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- Never forget that Jesus, in His divinity, saw in absolutely clarity every, and all, moments in time.
- So when we attend the Holy Week liturgies...whenever you pause in prayer and love in remembrance of His sacrifice...when your heart aches in remembrance of His agonies...you ARE there...you DO truly walk beside Him...for in those days 2000 years ago, YOU were in the mind of Jesus...and His vision of YOU and your love helped strengthen Him in every step...at every stroke of the whip...at every strike of the hammer...to the very moment He breathed His last.
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- Remember “The Passion of the Christ”? At times in His agony Jesus seemed to have no more strength to continue on His road.
- But then...He would behold His Mother...and her love for Him, and His love for her, would spur Him on.
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- Likewise, in reality...Jesus saw YOUR love and devotion in His mind’s eye...and it spurred Him on towards the final victory.
- How do we know that He didn’t say to Himself: *“I cannot go on... except for my precious _____, ...for my brave _____, ... for my beloved (insert your own name here)...who is thinking of me... loving me...depending on me...in 2014.”*
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- Remember the movie Forrest Gump...when Forrest was describing his adventures at the bedside of his beloved dying Jenny?
- Jenny says: *“I wish I could have been there with you.”* And Forrest looks at her tenderly and says: *“You were.”*
- Likewise, when our hearts ache at Jesus’ sufferings...at His loneliness...and we tell him: *“My Jesus...I wish I could have been*

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there with you”...He just looks at us lovingly and says: “You were.”

- At every moment, you WERE there...for Jesus saw your love for Him even then...and thus He begged: *“Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.”* *Father, see how I suffer for them, and forgive them, these my beloved ones...that we all might be with one another. In Heaven. Forever.*

Reading I

[Jer 20:10-13](#)

I hear the whisperings of many:

“Terror on every side!

Denounce! let us denounce him!”

All those who were my friends
are on the watch for any misstep of mine.

“Perhaps he will be trapped; then we can prevail,
and take our vengeance on him.”

But the LORD is with me, like a mighty champion:
my persecutors will stumble, they will not triumph.

In their failure they will be put to utter shame,

to lasting, unforgettable confusion.

O LORD of hosts, you who test the just,
who probe mind and heart,

Let me witness the vengeance you take on them,
for to you I have entrusted my cause.

Sing to the LORD,

praise the LORD,

For he has rescued the life of the poor
from the power of the wicked!

Responsorial Psalm

[18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7](#)

R. (see 7) **In my distress I called upon the Lord, and he heard my voice.**

I love you, O LORD, my strength,
O LORD, my rock, my fortress, my deliverer.

R. **In my distress I called upon the Lord, and he heard my voice.**

My God, my rock of refuge,
my shield, the horn of my salvation, my stronghold!

Praised be the LORD, I exclaim,
and I am safe from my enemies.

R. **In my distress I called upon the Lord, and he heard my voice.**

The breakers of death surged round about me,
the destroying floods overwhelmed me;
The cords of the nether world enmeshed me,
the snares of death overtook me.

R. **In my distress I called upon the Lord, and he heard my voice.**

In my distress I called upon the LORD
and cried out to my God;

From his temple he heard my voice,
and my cry to him reached his ears.

R. **In my distress I called upon the Lord, and he heard my voice.**

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Gospel

[Jn 10:31-42](#)

The Jews picked up rocks to stone Jesus.

Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from my Father. For which of these are you trying to stone me?"

The Jews answered him,

"We are not stoning you for a good work but for blasphemy. You, a man, are making yourself God."

Jesus answered them,

"Is it not written in your law, 'I said, "You are gods"?"

If it calls them gods to whom the word of God came, and Scripture cannot be set aside,

can you say that the one

whom the Father has consecrated and sent into the world blasphemes because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?"

If I do not perform my Father's works, do not believe me; but if I perform them, even if you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may realize and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father."

Then they tried again to arrest him;

but he escaped from their power.

He went back across the Jordan

to the place where John first baptized, and there he remained.

Many came to him and said,

"John performed no sign,

but everything John said about this man was true."

And many there began to believe in him.