



“Moving Decisively Forward.”

Photo: Palm Trees, San Diego – Anna Cseri



“Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” (Phil 2:8)

“Contemplating Jesus, whose food was to do the Father's will and who became obedient unto death, we learn to obey as He did, and to give our lives for others. We surrender to God in faith so as to be united with Jesus and to continue His mission.”

Constitutions #46

“The crowds preceding him and those following kept crying out and saying:

*“Hosanna to the Son of David;
blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord;
hosanna in the highest.” Mt. 21:9*

Readings: Matthew 21:1-11, Isaiah 50:4-7, Psalms 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24, Philipians 2:6-11, Matthew 26:14-27:66

We are one week away from Easter. We can still decide how we want to enter into Holy Week, and engage in the mysteries of Christ's suffering, death and salvation for us.

It is a good opportunity on Palm Sunday to pause and look back on our Lenten journey so far.

***What stands out to me from the last few weeks?
How have I discovered God in my daily life, in the little things?***

At the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, Jesus had to face his coming Passion and at the same time engage with the crowd celebrating Him. He knew what was waiting for Him as he entered Jerusalem, and at the same time, the crowd's cheering, and exaltation of Him was indicating something else, something joyful and reassuring. Jesus had to stay focused on fulfilling His mission, following His Father's will, as well as noticing the reality around Him – the celebration of the people who came just for Him. This ambivalence in Him must have been challenging for Him. The external was totally different from His internal state. We can imagine him consciously choosing to stay in the present and soak in the joy and cheerfulness of the people around Him. The only thing that He could do was to accept his reality and to stay connected to the Father. He accepts the reality of the crowd cheering him on and the reality of his approaching Passion. We can contemplate His inner attitudes and feelings at that moment sitting on the back of the colt.

As we reflect on this gospel passage, we can also find moments in our own lives when we had to choose decisively to accept our reality and surrender to it. We can arrive at that point of acceptance, when we realize that we become free to encounter whatever is to happen, good or bad. In my experience those are the moments when we encounter God, who comes close to us. I also notice in my life that the more I put my focus on God and what He wants to tell me, the more I become aware of the reality of myself and the world around me and enter it freely. I can easily be distracted by my worries and fear of the future, so Jesus' entry into Jerusalem can be an important reminder to us how to surrender to God and trust that God will always be with us in our present realities with their joys and challenges.



In his homily on Palm Sunday in 2020, Pope Francis said:

“God saved us by serving us. We often think we are the ones who serve God. No, God is the one who freely chose to serve us, for God loved us first. It is difficult to love and not be loved in return. And it is even more difficult to serve if we do not let ourselves be served by God.”

How do I perceive that God is serving me these days?

We can pray for the ability to be more aware of Jesus’ sacrifice and service for us, and listen to the song “*These Alone Are Enough*”, an adaptation of the “*Suscipe*” prayer by St. Ignatius of Loyola. We can ask for the desire to surrender to Him and be united with Him in His Passion for us.

I present to the Lord people and situations I let enter with him in Jerusalem.

These Alone Are Enough

Song by St. Louis Jesuits

Music: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8C-SENHUAw8>

Take my heart, O Lord, take my hopes and dreams.
Take my mind with all its plans and schemes.
Give me nothing more than your love and grace.
These alone, O God, are enough for me.
Take my thoughts, O Lord, and my memory.
Take my tears, my joys, my liberty.
Give me nothing more than your love and grace.
These alone, O God, are enough for me.
I surrender, Lord, all I have and hold.
I return to you your gifts untold.



Photo: Sunrise at Brace Rock, Gloucester, MA - Anna Cseri

Give me nothing more than your love and grace.
These alone, O God, are enough for me.
When the darkness falls on my final days,
take the very breath that sang your praise.
Give me nothing more than your love and grace.
These alone, O God, are enough for me.



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