

Palm Sunday

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by

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*Dear brother priests, I beg you never to allow any activity or administrative duty
To take priority over this great responsibility [commitment to grow in holiness].”*

-Bishop Michael F. Burbidge, Chrism Mass, 19 April 2011

Today, as Jesus enters Jerusalem, He is greeted as a king. On Friday, as Jesus leaves Jerusalem, He is condemned to die as a criminal. Today, we enter the Passion – the suffering, agony, crucifixion, and death – of Jesus. But today we enter into the drama of Holy Week in a way that probably none of us have ever experienced before: no crowds...no palms...no *Hosannas*...going from the triumph of palms to the sorrow of the Passion alone.

This week was the darkest of times for our Savior...much of which He endured alone – not unlike us in these pandemic times. Yet, even in these darkest of times, Jesus **freely accepts** his fate. He fully embraces His Father’s will. Jesus **knows** that God has been with Him throughout his life and God was **not** going to abandon Him now. Jesus **knows** the Father loves Him and will be with Him no matter what!

The same is true for **us**. **GOD LOVES US** – and has promised to be with **us** no matter what, be it life in isolation or life threatening. God does **not** abandon us, especially now as we live in a pandemic. Even when we **think** God is not there, He **is**...and always **will** be!

So, as we face this holiest of times by ourselves, we must remember that we are **not** alone: God **is** with us! God will not test us beyond that of which we are capable. What we have to ask ourselves is can we, like Jesus, freely accept **our** fate? Can **we**, like Jesus, freely embrace the Father’s will for **us**? Because...like Jesus, God won’t let **us** down, either. God **is** with us every moment of every day! May this Holy Week be a time when we once again pray, “Lord, we believe; help our unbelief!”