

Palm Sunday- 2023

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna!”

Today, we enter the most sacred week of the year. We do this with the commemoration of the solemn entry of Jesus to Jerusalem. We know that this great entry is not to conquer or to dominate, but to die, to give himself as self-sacrifice on the cross. This is what we listened to through the passion narrative, beautifully presented.

The theme of today’s celebration, we can find in our second reading, Paul’s Letter to the Philippians, the heart of which is a hymn. These words go back to the very beginning of Christianity, and they serve as a beautiful summary statement of our faith, the paschal mystery. Paul is reflecting on the downward trajectory of the Son of God; all the way down and down into death itself, even death on a cross.

Paul is speaking about *Kenosis* –‘self-emptying’-of Jesus. *“Though in the form of God-he did not regard equality with God. He emptied himself-(glory), took the form of human, a slave, humbled himself and obeyed the Father to die, on a cross. Paul would say: “so that every knee should bend, and every tongue confess, that Jesus Christ is Lord., to the glory of God the Father”*. Jesus shuns the glory, but God exalted him above every name.

Hosanna/day of preparation. Ex’ 12.3; the lamb to be slaughtered at Pascua need to be chosen 4 days ahead. Exactly on this day, Jesus chose himself to be killed as the new Pascua! If you do listen with your heart, you can hear the heartbeat and cry of the lamb to be killed, amidst the shouting of Hosanna slogans! Where else

do we find, if not the Son of God, celebrating like a feast, his miserable killing?

According to the Roman Tradition: If one makes a solemn entry to city upon a horse, that means, he comes for a confrontation with the Roman leadership; But by coming upon a donkey, Jesus comes as a sign, as a messenger of Peace.

How do we celebrate the most spiritual week of the year? Are we tempted to lose all the spiritual depth that this week offers us? Can we create a moment of silence to focus our thoughts, conversations, and meditations around the events of this Holy Week, the passion and death of our Savior?

On Palm Sunday, ask yourself: Is Christ, King and Lord over everything in my life? Do I, like Christ, turn down worldly glory for spiritual and eternal glory? "How often, O Lord, have I betrayed You?" "How many times have I told You words of love in prayers, while my actions show the opposite and my heart is far away from You?". Let our prayer be: Have mercy on me Lord and be my savior. Amen.