

Palm Sunday 2022

All over the world, Christians are gathering again this Holy Week, to celebrate those days which are not only the core of the Church's year, but the most decisive events in all of human history: the suffering, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Some do so in calm and joy, others amid great sorrows. Our presence here IS a form of evangelization, witnessing to our faith, publicly declaring how much we need a Redeemer and Savior of the world, One Who brings hope beyond what we can generate for ourselves. The sorrows of the world make the words of Jesus resound in our hearts: ***"All of you will have your faith shaken."***

It is good to recall ***how obscure and unexpected was the path God chose to redeem us for the people of Christ's own time.*** Before social media and 24/7 news, most people were simply unaware of what was happening. Even for those present in Jerusalem for the annual Passover ritual, this seemed like nothing more than the execution of yet one more criminal, one more failed prophet – poor timing and a brief spectacle to distract them for a bit; but then the world went on, just as before. Christ passed by, carrying His Cross ... and then they walked away.

So too today, as we celebrate Holy Week, the world goes on ... the days ahead will be marked by the same challenges and uncertainties, the same people, the same responsibilities and problems as before. We know all too well that the Lord's Cross does not remove human suffering from history. But the Cross does ***redeem*** that suffering, transforming it through grace from despair to hope, bringing by faith the assurance of God's presence and mercy in those troubles.

But to those who did NOT walk away, to those who waited through the darkness of Good Friday and the emptiness of Holy Saturday, a hope was revealed that changes everything.

Still today, Jesus passes by, carrying His Cross in the members of His Body. While Lent may not have turned out as we planned on Ash Wednesday, that itself unites us in the very purpose of the season: to deepen our trust in the Lord's grace and mercy, and to surrender our wills to God's will. Faith shows us that what began in obscurity and apparent failure, unknown to most of the world, still has the power to bring healing to our lives and our world. We pray for ourselves and those who perhaps cannot pray today:

“Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.”