

## **Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord C2025**

When we read the Gospel, there is a word that comes very often out of the mouth of our Lord: "My hour has not yet come." What is that hour? It is the hour of his Passion and death; it is the hour of fulfilling the mission received from the Father to give his life on the cross for the salvation of the world.

Up to now, our Lord had stayed away from Jerusalem and the confrontation with the Pharisees and the Scribes. Now the time is ripe to go Jerusalem and to fulfill the mission of the salvation of the world.

Today we celebrate that entrance of our Lord in Jerusalem. This is a moment of glory and triumph that could not leave the crowd indifferent. The enthusiast crowd sang loudly in his honor: "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest." But, that glory was short lived, because just few hours later, our Lord was rejected and dishonored. Many of among the same crowd were shouting by the end of the day: "Crucify him."

This scene of adulation and, then, of rejection of our Lord teaches that true glory is not that comes from human beings, but from God. Praise and admiration that people give us are often short-lived. It does not take too long that those who admire and praise us turn against us and start criticizing us. For our Lord, his true glory will come from the resurrection, because there the Father will place him above every creature and recognize him as the Lord of the whole universe.

The way that leads to true glory is the unconditional love that gives everything until the giving up of one's own life for the sake of the loved ones. For love of us, our Lord has emptied himself and gave up the legitimate privilege of being equal to God by becoming a human being and by accepting death on the cross.

When a life has been completely lived for the sake of our beloved ones as our Lord did, the suffering that comes out of it becomes a healing suffering. The suffering of our Lord is a suffering of love, a love that forgives, restores and re-creates. The Passion of our Lord is the passion of love for the salvation of humankind. So has he not turned back his cheeks to those who plucked his beard; so has he not hidden his face from buffets and spitting. Love alone is able to endure sacrifices and sufferings for the beloved ones, because in it each one is loved not for any interest, but for what he truly is as a child of God.

To listen to the passion of our Lord is to listen to the cry of the innocent who unjustly suffer in our world today. It is also an invitation to stir in us the conscience of solidarity in order to break and stop the chains of violence. Any time we make people suffer in one way or another, we prolong our Lord's Passion.

Let us learn from our Lord to forgive others as he did on the cross. May we find consolation and comfort in the Passion of our Lord when the love of our loved ones brings us sacrifice and sufferings!

**Isaiah 50: 4-7; Philippians 2: 6-11; Luke 22: 14-23: 56**



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