

Palm Sunday - A

Do you like parades! Today we hear about two parades

1. Jesus entry into Jerusalem – welcomed and proclaimed
2. Jesus leaving Jerusalem – disgraced and abandoned

Speaks of the duality of OUR response to Jesus

- Sometimes we let Him in
- Sometimes we shut Him out

It takes courage to be a Christian – to stand up for what is right

- Pilate washed his hands – he could have stood up for what he knew was right
- Judas betrayed Jesus – and committed suicide **Wallowed in Despair**
- Peter betrayed Jesus – but he repented and was forgiven **Repented in Hope**
(Salvation comes through forgiveness of sin)

This week – Holy Week – Begins with a call to courage

- It takes courage to stand up for moral lifestyle
- It takes courage to be the only parents that won't let your kids go to THAT movie
- It takes courage to be the only parents that won't allow THAT video game
- It takes courage to be the only girl in High School not wearing THAT blouse
- It takes courage to NOT stab co-workers in the back to get the promotion
- It takes courage NOT to do the shady business deal because it is wrong
- To be the faithful spouse
- To be obedient

We ARE NOT called to physical death for Jesus

We ARE called to give witness about Jesus and the life of being His disciple

The disciples came to pray with Jesus in Gethsemani – and fell asleep

The disciples stood with Jesus when He was arrested – and ran away

Just like the disciples we are called to stand with Jesus

It takes courage to stand with Christ at work, at school, at home

Today we hear about the death of Christ –

What gives us courage is the knowledge that it doesn't end here.

Death will be defeated

Sin will be defeated

Jesus rose from the dead and was victorious

It is with that confidence – that courage – that we enter Holy Week

A week of rejoicing in the Good News of our Salvation