

Palm Sunday Year C

- A few weeks ago we received ashes and began our Lenten journey
We made resolutions to do penance
Perhaps our resolutions were too high - perhaps not
Now we are asked to begin to recall the Passion & our redemption
- Today we have two Gospels – one at Jesus' entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday)
and the other we just read, The Passion

The official title of today's liturgy is "Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion"

The triumphant entry into Jerusalem - one more step toward the cross. **The Passion is the focus**

Two points on the 1st Gospel we read as we entered:

1. In Luke – No Palms – they spread their cloaks – their most expensive garment
In welcoming Jesus, they gave of themselves As should we
2. No Hosanna – instead Luke recalls what the angels sang at birth "peace in heaven, glory in the highest"
That which began in Bethlehem is being fulfilled

- Everybody loves a parade
Lots of things are expected at a parade

Marching bands	Animals	Jugglers
Colorful costumes	Clowns	<u>A SPECTACULAR</u>

Jesus enters Jerusalem and there are high expectations

But their expectations were not high enough

Jesus could heal the sick – sight to the blind – deaf hear

He **must** be the expected Messiah

They sing – lay down their cloaks

What a parade!

But Jesus is riding into Jerusalem to lay down His life

He was to offer himself up, be abused, crowned with thorns, beaten

He was to be raised up and crucified on a cross

- Throughout his entire gospel, Luke places Jesus among sinners
 - most dramatically at the end with criminals on either side.
 - **Right where He wants to be - Sinless among sinners**
 - The 2 thieves are at war in the heart of every Christian – Both good & Evil
The battle is real – but the battle is won!

On this Palm Sunday we can lay whatever might be sinful at the foot of the cross

Jesus wants to free us from our sin

Jesus wants to liberate us – and free us to live in his love – now and forever

This week "parades" right up to the crucifixion and the tomb

But it doesn't end there

It will continue to the resurrection and the empty tomb

May we all rejoice as we join THAT Easter parade.