

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**
- That's something to pray about during Holy Week
Pilate washed his hands – he could have stood up for what he knew was right
Apostles ran away and hid
Judas betrayed him, then hung himself
Even Peter denied him to save his skin
 - *When have we turned from Christ?*
 - *When have we helped crucify Him?*

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

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

We're probably not going to be called to physical death for Jesus

We ARE called to give witness about Jesus with our lives – BY HOW WE LIVE IT!

Just like the disciples we are called to stand with Jesus

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

- 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 even though it makes more profit
- To be the faithful spouse
- To be obedient

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 HE STILL IS

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

A week of rejoicing in the Good News of our Salvation