

## Palm Sunday - A

Where were you when you heard that JFK had been shot?  
John Lennon had been shot?  
Princess Di had been killed?

All of these deaths were unexpected – violent – senseless

Today we remember another death – just as violent, just as shocking  
BUT NOT SENSELESS

Jesus' death lies at the heart of who we are as Christians  
Jesus died because He chose to give Himself up as a sacrifice for the  
forgiveness and salvation of sinners  
NOT JUST 2000 years ago – TODAY for us right here

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**

This week – Holy Week – Begins with a call to courage OUR 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 not wearing THAT blouse or THAT skirt
- 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 sober – to show charity to the town reject
- 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