

Palm Sunday Year C

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 is just one more step toward the cross. **The Passion is the focus**

Two points on the 1st Gospel:

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

The Passion story begins with the Last Supper, Passover Meal

Passover commemorates Israel's freedom from slavery

Last Supper reveals a New Covenant where freedom from slavery is fulfilled –

Jesus is going to pass from death to life – THAT IS THE POINT OF PASSION - **Life over death, Victory**

1. *Agony in the garden* – there is fear and suffering

But LK points to resurrection. At end of garden story it says "Jesus ROSE from prayer"

& he finds them "sleeping from grief"

Jesus faces the trial in prayer, & rises – **Victory** – while all others are overcome with grief

2. *Peter's Denial & Repentance* – "The Lord turned and looked at Peter"

A look of compassion and forgiveness at moment of denial

& effect → Peter repents, **Victory**

3. *Herod & Pilot* – becoming friends after being enemies **Victory**

4. *Jesus takes up His cross.* & we encounter Simon the Cyrene and a new image

Simon, taking the cross, and following Jesus – an image for us, take up our cross & follow Jesus

5. *Even Barabas* – Barabas means Son of the Father

Bar = Son; Abba = Father

Sinner though he was, he was a son of the Father.

Just like us – sinners, yet still children of God

Luke places Jesus among sinners throughout the entire Gospel – most dramatically at the end with criminals on either side. **Right where He wants to be - Sinless among sinners**

"Today you will be with me in paradise"

With what confidence did the good thief live the rest of his life?"

With what confidence do we live our life?

Think – they come to break the legs – Jesus is already dead.

Did the thief still believe? Imagine if they'd hung there 3 days – Centurion returns & tells them of the empty tomb. *How different is the promise knowing Jesus rose!* **This is our state.**

The 2 thieves are at war in the heart of every Christian – Both good & Evil

The battle is real – but the battle is won!

Jesus gets the last word and gathers all creation into one and paradise is again possible

All creation can come home – from Eden to Calvary – from Eden to Norwood

The battle is real, the passion is real, but so is the Victory