

PALM SUNDAY

Fr Callistus Khathali - HOMILY : PALM SUNDAY - 10th April 2022

Isaiah 50:5-6

Lord Yahweh has opened my ear and I have not resisted, I have not turned away. I have offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; I have not turned my face away from insult and spitting.

In Eucharistic Prayer II just before the bread is raised we have these words: ***"At the time he was betrayed and entered willingly into his Passion...."***

We begin the Holy Week by accompanying the Lord as he once again willingly enters Jerusalem the city where his Passion took place. We are reminded that this is the choice the Lord makes, beginning with him choosing to be made flesh and dwell among us.

Let our Palm Sunday procession or solemn entrance into our churches today remind us of our privilege of sharing in this noble choice of our Lord.

In the first reading (Isaiah 50:4-7) we encounter the first oracle of The Suffering Servant of the Lord. *(We will read other oracles this coming week on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Good Friday).* These oracles foretold the Lord's Passion. In detail we are told how the Lord willingly entered into his Passion. He offered no resistance, he did not turn away, he offered his back to those who scourged him, and did not hide his face against insults and spittle.

He made this choice for our own sake, taking the place of those deserving punishment because of their sins. This was not an easy choice as we see how intense his prayer was at Getsemane (Mount of Olives) just before he was captured. He prayed for the strength to accept and do the will of the Father.

This is a powerful lesson for us. Our genuine act of love for those entrusted to our care often calls us to go an extra mile. Such choices should be made out of free will. They are not easy as they call us to make adjustments and sometimes to even suffer or give us something precious for the sake of those we love.

Let this Holy Week inspire us to make such noble choices as we look upon the Lord who is our role model.

May Almighty God bless you the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Have a grace filled Holy Week.

Fr Callistus