

Palm Sunday

Why do we process on this day?

We remember two things:

- 1) Palm Sunday fulfilled scripture – Messiah would enter Jerusalem riding on a colt as foretold in Zechariah 9:9 – “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem; behold your King comes to you: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding on a donkey, and upon a colt the foal of a donkey.”
- 2) This day begins a time of remembering the Passion of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Passion: when we think of this word ‘feeling’ comes to mind. ‘Excitement,’ ‘Enthusiasm,’ ‘Fervor’ - these are all positive emotions that were experienced on the first Palm Sunday and are known to us now.

There is also the dark side of Passion: ‘rage,’ ‘fury,’ ‘outburst.’ These were also known on that day and in our day.

People are passionate about many things:

Religion and politics are two of the most passionate subjects we have. They can be unifying and extremely divisive.

There were disagreements on the first Palm Sunday as to where Jesus came from, who he truly was, and what his message was. Holy Week which we are about to enter and which we call holy addresses these questions for us.

Those same three questions still haunt even the faithful among us Christians and the divisions among churches and within congregations is evidence.

There is no turning back. We must go to Jerusalem with Jesus if we are to find the answers for ourselves. We must enter the crowd and feel the passion if we are ever to know.

Some will see Jesus as a King – the lowly one fulfilling God’s word and revealing his true kingdom.

Others will only see the Jesus as the hope of a King who is one outwardly, one who fed them from little, who united them in their faith, one who would free them from political and religious oppression.

From shouts of praise to disappointment Holy Week unfolds and the drama of the Passion begins. We too enter this week with the crowd. Will the song, “All glory, laud and honor,” be in our hearts five days from now? Five months? Five years?

The three questions posed earlier: Where was Jesus from? Who was he? What was his message? will either excite our passion for or against him. Indifference, common to our 21st century lifestyles may be what some feel on the surface – yet an innocent and holy man dying at the hands of a mob is hardly an uncommon event in our time. Most stomachs turn at the thought.

What will be your passion regarding this man Jesus? How far will your passion take you? Will we even make it to Good Friday?

Amen.