

Year B
Palm Sunday
March 28, 2021
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 15:1-47

The Passion story this morning is really our sermon for today. Hearing the entire passion narrative of trial, crucifixion and death of our Savior is the point of this Palm Sunday service, and I want to respect that. This morning we'll only talk briefly about a couple of things.

It used to be that the Palm Sunday service was for telling the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The story of people waving palms, and spreading their cloaks on the road to welcome Jesus was a joyful one. Eventually, however, we realized that worshipers were not hearing about the crucifixion. You see, only a small percentage of people attend Holy Week services, so worshipers were going from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday—from hearing Jesus being hailed as the Messiah, to Jesus being hailed as the Risen Christ. And this omission of the crucifixion from Jesus' story was theologically unacceptable; we can't have Easter, can't have salvation, without the crucifixion, after all. We need to remember this sacrifice, and all that it implies. So we now read the entire story on Palm Sunday.

At the same time, we also still have Holy Week this coming week. The spiritual discipline of reading, praying and meditating on the significance of each day during Holy Week can be a powerful thing. So I invite you to join us on Tuesday night at 7:00 for Evening Prayer, on Maundy Thursday at 8:00 p.m. for Compline, and at 7:00 p.m. on Good Friday for that service. The times, and the links, will be posted on this Facebook page.

I pray that this Holy Week will be a fruitful time of reflection and prayer for you, and that the Holy Spirit will be powerfully present.

Amen.