

Sermon for March 29th, 2015 Palm Sunday

Mark 14:1-15:47

This morning I have **chosen** to begin the sermon—or in **this** case the homily—differently. I am **not** giving the usual greeting or salutation; there are **no** blessings and peace offered as usual. **That** is because; this is **not** like any other Sunday in case you may **not** have gathered that by now.

Today is the day when we have our feet placed in two different worlds at the **same** time. **Today** is the day when we have had readings from two different gospel writers. **Today** is the day when we began our worship service outside the church, where we heard about Jesus being placed on a donkey, about the very large crowd who had spread their cloaks on the road, about **some** of the people who had **even** spread branches from the trees on the road, there were people **ahead** of Jesus and **behind** him shouting, “*Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven.*” Oh, **happy** day—earlier anyway.

Then we came to the gospel reading. By **that** time the tone of the reading had changed dramatically. There were **no** *Hosannas to the Son of David to be heard*. There was **no** *blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord*. There was **no** *Hosanna to the highest heaven*. There were words of: arrest, killing, scolding, betrayal, grieving, desertion, denial, jealousy, crucify him, flogging,

mocking, a crucifixion, cries of being forsaken, and death. **Hardly** the same feeling now than the one we **began** with—is it?

Then after our HOD—*Ride on, Ride on in Majesty*—we will be having a baptismal ceremony. **Another** opportunity for our joy to abound as baby Faye, **beloved** child of God, will be welcomed into the Kingdom.

Today our spirits are up and down, down and up. The **one** thing that I want you to remember: if you remember nothing else from what I am saying right now: is that in all of these ups and downs which we are experiencing today—**God is right here in the midst of it and right here in the midst of us.**

This week as we proceed into Holy Week I ask you to take some time to **think and reflect** upon what has happened during this time in our Christian history. In the bulletin you can see that each day there is a gospel reading for you to read depicting the **final days** of Jesus' life where the dimensions of the story continue to resonate and deepen as the week unfolds.

Maundy Thursday we will have the '*Meal in the Upper room*' which, for those of you who have **not** experienced this before, is a reflection upon the **last** meal that Jesus had with his disciples through food and scripture readings then we move to the sanctuary for our worship service including foot washing.

Good Friday there will be a cantata done by our choir along with the **reverent** stripping of the altar of everything that is on it **except** for the cross which will be draped in black.

Holy Saturday for those of you who have signed up for a time for our Prayer Vigil you will come here into the sanctuary and spend some **alone** time with God. Just you and God. If you have **never** been here, alone, in the **presence** of God it can be a deeply spiritual and incredible experience.

Sunday morning we will be celebrating Jesus' resurrection. Oh, **happy** day once again!!!

Today is no usual Sunday. The events of this week are no usual events. Once again, God's **glory** will reign. Once again, God's **glory** will be shown to the world, come and see. *Enough said. AMEN.*