

A Journey through Palm Sunday and Holy Week

A guide from Fr. Tom to guide and help us prepare our thoughts for the journey from Palm Sunday through Holy Week to Easter. Each step of the journey focuses on an essential question to guide our focus and thoughts.

Week before Palm Sunday

As we journey from Jesus' Triumphant entry into Jerusalem, to the cross and Empty Tomb, I invite you this week to journey with us here, present in t St. John's Anglican Church, or in the comfort of your own surroundings. Read the gospel text and ask yourself "Where am I in the story?", and "Why am I there?"

The Question: Where are you in this Picture?

Palm Sunday

Text: Matthew 21: 1-11

I am always intrigued about where I am in Jesus' triumphal journey into Jerusalem.

I have read commentators describe Jerusalem somewhat like a shopping mall at Christmas, with last minute shoppers. People trying to complete religious obligations and the necessary items for Passover. Yet at the gate, there is as described, a band of ragtags and unwanted, escorting Jesus into Jerusalem. The question is, do they care or do you just want to get business done and go home?

The Question: Where are you in this picture?

Monday in Holy Week

Text: John 12: 1-11

In our passage this morning, we hear of a visit Jesus made to Lazarus after he was raised from the dead. During this visit, Mary takes a pound of costly perfume, made of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus. Imagine the fragrance of whole house. Judas Iscariot pipes up and says, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" Jesus responds, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

The Question: Where are you in the story? - Are you taking sides with Judas or allowing your faith to side with Jesus?

Tuesday in Holy Week

Text: John 12: 20-36

As we read through this portion of chapter 12 of John's Gospel, we see Jesus challenging the people about the type of death he was to die. Their response was, "We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever". Jesus said, "Walk while you have the Light". Jesus called them to look beyond their traditional understanding of the Messiah.

The Question: Are we prepared to move beyond our Sunday School foundation of faith, so we can walk in the Light and see Jesus in the mist of us?

Wednesday In Holy Week

Text: John 13: 21-30

When I read this gospel passage from John, where Jesus tells them that one of you will betray me, it seems to me that only disciple that was curious was Simon Peter, who asks, Who?

The Question: Where are you in the picture? – Are you curious?

Maunder Thursday

John 13: 1-15

As we experience Jesus' love in a new way, as he humbles himself and stoops down and washes the feet of the disciples; would you do like Peter and say, "not my feet"? Or would you let Jesus wash your feet?

The Question: Do you, like Peter, say not my feet? Or would you let Jesus wash your feet?

Good Friday

Text: Luke 23: 1-55

When we read this depiction of the crucifixion, we see people deriding Jesus, "You save others, save yourself". The two criminals that were crucified with him, one deriding him saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us! But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God...we indeed have been condemned justly...but this man has done nothing wrong. Then he said to Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom". He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise".

The Question: Which criminal are you? - And why?

Holy Saturday - "The Great Vigil of Easter"

Text: Matthew 27:57-66

We hear the story of our faith tonight and recommit ourselves to Christ. Jesus told others during His life and ministry that He would rise from the dead ([Matthew 17:22](#)). And the writers of the Old Testament shared hundreds of years before Jesus' time on earth that [it would happen](#), too.

The Question: How do we live out our lives, as a follower of Jesus?

Resurrection Sunday:

Texts: John 20: 1-18

Jesus' followers found his tomb empty, three days after his crucifixion. Later, Jesus appeared to many people, proving he was alive. His prophesy of resurrection was confirmed, the prophesies of the Old Testament rang true, and the faith of his followers was justified. This proclaimed a victory over death, the sacrifice for the sins of all, and the message of compassion, love and forgiveness.

The Question: Where are you in the picture? – How do you move forward after the Resurrection?