

## **Homily for Palm Sunday**

*Rev. Francis D. Kim*

When we are sitting in an airplane and looking down on the landscapes, the rivers, mountains, the winding ways, and little villages spread out over the earth, we may think it is so beautiful. You know? When the astronauts are seeing our blue planet from their space shuttle, they are so overwhelmed by its beauty. However, in this beautiful planet, I wonder why it is so difficult for people to live peacefully together.

On this last Sunday before Easter, we are celebrating “Passion Sunday,” which is also known as “Palm Sunday.” And, we recall the entrance of Jesus to Jerusalem, where He betrayed, arrested, tortured, and died on a cross. People cried out both “Hosanna!” and “Crucify!”

They were following and shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” The Hebrew word ‘hosanna’ means ‘Lord, save us, we pray.’ He was a hero. He was a savior. But, how quickly things can change, and how fickle people can become! Soon after, Jesus becomes captive. He is betrayed, and all the disciples leave Him and flee. He is handed over to death. They are shouting with anger, “Crucify Him.” They were same people, who laid their cloaks on the way as a ‘red carpet’ for Him, who waved palms to welcome Him.

Such mixture of good and evil among the crowds shows a real human nature. This drama is not only an event 2000 years ago, it is also our drama today. In this world and in our minds, there are mixtures of good and evil. It is the human nature. The people of Palm Sunday in Jerusalem long time ago are non other than ourselves. We know how many times we have denied Jesus, and how many times we have betrayed Jesus in our lives?

God must weep when He looks at this world. When we fail to love each other, when we don’t want to forgive each other, we are still striking Jesus. When we turn away from our neighbors, we are also turning away from Jesus. When we refuse to take care of the poor, we are also striking Jesus. God must weep. We are still crucifying Jesus.

But, that is not the end of story. He will rise again, and He will be with us always. If Christ is not alive, there is no hope for any of us. So, the

palms also remind us of the great love of Jesus. Despite what all these people did to Him, Jesus suffered and died for all of them, for all of us. And, He wants to forgive and to save us. In His death and resurrection, Jesus has done everything possible to make eternal happiness available to us. He invited us to the way to the Kingdom, He taught us the truth of the Kingdom, and He gave us the life in the Kingdom.

Take the palms home today and keep them. They remind us of human fickleness both then and now, of our own sins and failures, and of Christ's redeeming and victorious love which alone can make us whole and strong.

In this Passion Sunday, let us remember His Passion brings us eternal life. It is a great love. It is a great hope. It is a great mystery of salvation. So, in His resurrection, we may confess ourselves, "Truly, you are the Son of God, our Savior. Hosanna in the highest!"