**Homily for Palm Sunday(4/14/2019)**

Rev. Francis Kim

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.

The very large crowd was following and shouting, when Jesus was coming into Jerusalem, “Hosanna to the Son of David! 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 and king.

Indeed, People saw Jesus and His miracles. Especially, they saw the rising of the dead man, Lazarus. It was the last and climax of Jesus’ miracles on His way to Jerusalem. It must have been an awesome, magnificent moment, to see Jesus facing the tomb and commanding, “Lazarus, come out!”

Then, Lazarus, the dead man, came back to life from death. It was a great sign that Jesus was a Son of God and Savior of the world. Because of this miracle, many people applauded and praised Jesus with Palm branches in their hands to welcome Him to Jerusalem. They followed Jesus, and they called Him, “Lord” or “Master.”

But, how quickly things can change, and how fickle people can become! The crowd was suddenly changed. They betrayed and denied Him, shouting with anger, “Crucify Him! 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. In this world and in our minds, there are mixtures of good and evil at the same time. 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?

Jesus suffered and died for us because He wanted to save our human nature. He, dying in our place, taking our sins on that cross, is God’s love in action. But, that’s not the end of the story. He rose again, and He is the living Christ. His death became true life. His death became our hope. Powerless death of Jesus on the cross became power of life.

After His suffering and death, sinners became holy. Slaves became free. Sorrow became happiness. Frustration became hope. All we sinners have been saved through His death.

While we cannot walk the streets of Jerusalem of two thousand years ago, we can walk with Jesus Christ through our world today proclaiming His salvation, especially, in the most desolate and downtrodden places as well as in the well-known path of our daily lives. These branches, and we who carry them, will blessed so that salvation will be proclaimed to the entire world.

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!”