



Dear Friends,

"Hosanna to the son of David...Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest." The crowd cheered as Jesus entered Jerusalem, where He would be crucified. Today is the beginning of the celebration of our Lord's Paschal Mystery - His Passion and Resurrection. It was to accomplish this mystery that He entered His own city of Jerusalem.

We know, and thank God, that Holy Week, which begins today, concludes with the glorious resurrection at Easter. But between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday is a breathtaking story of total rejection and betrayal of the Lord, Jesus. The betrayal of Jesus by Judas is a story of profound sadness. Jesus is arrested, and His apostles run away. Those who were His friends, and even witnessed the miracles He performed, had left Him. Peter, who had boasted that he would not deny Jesus, denies Him three times. So Jesus faces His accusers alone. It's a terrible thing, to be alone during a time of great suffering.

Palm Sunday makes us face tragic facts of our own time as well. The world is not without tragedy and betrayal. Original Sin is alive and doing its damage every day. But Jesus entered into all of the human experience, into this abandonment and powerlessness totally and freely to solidarize with us, to be one with us in our suffering. And he did it out of love for us - for you, me, and for all of human kind.

Holy Week reminds us that what seemed to be the end was only the beginning. At the end, Jesus overcame the forces of evil, sin and death; Jesus really has the last word. Holy Week is the highest point of our whole liturgical year – it is a celebration of our salvation. Being Christian means endlessly meeting the living God and there is no better place and time than Holy Week to encounter the living and life-giving God. Let us be with the Lord during his final days on earth. I invite you today - begin the journey of this Holy Week, travel the road with the Lord and let the events of these Holy Days touch our hearts, so we can begin to grasp the great hope that is ours when we say the simple words next Sunday – He is risen.

May we have a Blessed Holy Week,
Fr. Krzysztof Kardzis