

April 3, 2020

Greetings in Jesus's Name;

Holy Week begins Sunday. As its name suggests, it is the most sacred sequence of days in the life of the church. It is the week toward which the season of Lent moves us. It is the week of Jesus's passion and death. The week begins with the waving of palms as Jesus enters Jerusalem, and ends with the Saturday evening vigil awaiting the early light for the first glimpse of resurrection.

It is in these events which occur from Sunday through Friday that the church of Jesus Christ lives out his passion. It is not a week where we simply remind ourselves of what happened to Jesus and his disciples "way back then," but a week in which we can become part of the story, and the story becomes part of us. We both shout out "Hosanna" and "crucify him." We eat bread and drink the cup that Jesus offers on the night of his betrayal, and we stand at a distance as we watch Jesus die upon the cross. We sit in the darkness of the tomb and await the coming light.

In Holy Week the old, old story can become a new story as we experience once again what it means to be a community of believers whose identity comes from the events of this week.

By now I hope you have received in the mail the order of events as they occurred that week. I invite you to join with millions around the globe reading the lessons of the day. Each day, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, I will be sending suggested devotional thoughts for in-home worship. On Thursday I invite you to join in a virtual Holy Thursday communion service, and on Friday a traditional service will be posted on our website. Below is a prayer for the beginning of Holy Week that I invite you to pray with me.

O Jesus, here I stand, at the beginning of Holy Week, and, truthfully, I am distracted by many things. I ask Your help to turn my eyes now to You. Lord, take my hand and stay by my side as I journey with You to Calvary. Give me the grace to peacefully accept each cross that comes my way. Strengthen my hands and my will for love and for service. Increase in me the virtue of humility and meekness, that I may bear all with a quiet spirit. I praise You, Lord, and give You thanks, for You are all good, and Your mercy is endless. In Jesus's name I pray, Amen.

God Bless

Roger

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