

My dear friends, as we begin this Holy Week, Holy Mother Church invites us to remember. We remember the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem when the crowds welcomed Him as Messiah and King. We remember the days that Jesus spent in Jerusalem as He continued to preach the Good News of the Kingdom and as the Pharisees and scribes plotted to destroy Him. We remember the sacred events of Holy Thursday when the Lord gave us the great example of love in washing the feet of His disciples, when He shared with us His own love and His Real Presence in the Eucharist, when He continued His ministry in the world through the holy priesthood. We remember the Passion of our Lord on Good Friday as Jesus suffered terribly and died for us in the greatest possible act of love. We remember the overwhelming sorrow as all of creation mourned the death of our Messiah and King, who was laid in the Tomb. And we remember the joy and the beauty of the Resurrection, as our Savior shattered the chains of sin and death and brings to us new hope and new life.

But the remembrance that Holy Mother Church calls us to is much more than just thinking back to these events of nearly 2,000 years ago. It is more even than praying and meditating about what happened on those days. Rather, the remembrance to which we are invited is a memory like the Hebrew people experience each year at Passover. It is a remembrance that makes present once again the great mysteries of our salvation. And this remembrance is brought about, more than anywhere else, in the liturgy.

Liturgy is timeless and so it has an ability to bring us out of our own present time and to unite us with the one eternal sacrifice of Christ. Through the sacred liturgies of Holy Week, we are now present with Christ on the road into Jerusalem. We will be present at the Last Supper with Jesus and His Apostles in the Upper Room. We will stand next to Blessed Mary and St. John at the foot of the Cross on Good Friday. And we will look into the empty tomb on Easter Sunday and hear those glorious words of the angel: "He is not here; He has been raised."

Let us then be true disciples of Christ; let us walk with Him the journey of Holy Week. May we accept the invitation of the Church to enter into these sacred and beautiful moments of worship. This Holy Week, may we remember.