

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

March 28-29, 2015

Readings: Isaiah 50: 4-7; Phil 2: 6-11; Mark 14:1- 15:47

“All of you will have your faith shaken.” With these ominous words, Jesus warned the Twelve that they would suffer on account of the Faith– that they would question, wonder and doubt. How disturbing these words must have sounded to the Twelve, the Lord’s closest confidants. And yet how true they would turn out to be.

Two thousand years later, we witness events that can easily shake our faith, make us stop in bewilderment, fear and even doubt. World events are as troubling as ever. What we recall during Holy Week is much more than a re-enactment of historical events. Rather, we enter fully into the reality of the Paschal mystery– namely, the suffering, death and resurrection of our Savior.

It is a dark road, filled with the effects of our own sin and weakness. We must realize that in very real ways we are part of the crowd that is shouting to “Crucify Him,” by means of our own actions. Our faith is tried and tested. We do not always know the way, and at times feel alone in our convictions. Yet, it is to the name of Jesus that all must bow in humble supplication.

Holy Week takes center stage in our lives for now. We do not allow the challenges of the world to overwhelm us. Rather, we allow the power of the Cross to transform us.

On this 100th anniversary of the first public celebration of Mass in this magnificent Cathedral, we make Archbishop Ireland’s words our own: “I seek no backward voyage across the sea of time; I will ever press forward. I believe that God intends the present to be better than the past, and the future to be better than the present.”

Holy Week is the most solemn time of the Church year, when we willingly enter into the darkness of sin, including our own, that we might be a witness to the lifting of this darkness by means of the Blood of the Cross. Let us walk with the Lord; let us not abandon Him now, not in this hour of need. Let us hold fast to the Truth, confident that the Truth will indeed set us free from our shackles—that in the end we might bear witness to the Light.