

Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

MARK 11:9



Empty Praise

How could anyone think that the joyous cry "Hosanna!" would be viewed as empty praise?

Though the word has come down to us in the Greek Gospels, it probably has Hebrew roots as a form of the verb "to save" (see Psalm 118:25). Thus, it is more than an exuberant cry; it is a plea for salvation. How could this possibly be empty praise?

The answer to that question is found in human fickleness. So often we—not simply the people of Jerusalem, but we human beings—wholeheartedly offer someone our support, only to turn our backs on that person when the going gets tough. We know from experience how this works.

This is precisely what today's readings describe. The passage for the procession with palms describes an enthusiastic group of people showing Jesus great respect and crying out: "Hosanna!" Later, in the Gospel we hear, "Crucify him!" Were these the same people? Does it matter? Presumably these were people who were in Jerusalem to celebrate Passover, the feast of their deliverance from Egyptian bondage. Now they are caught in another oppressive political system—Roman occupation. Are these heartless people? Or are they like us: often afraid to take an unpopular stand lest we lose face or, even worse, suffer serious consequences? And so, Jesus stands alone before those who have planned to silence him. Might he have considered the earlier "Hosanna" empty praise? Probably not. Jesus does not hold our fickleness against us.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

For Reflection

- ✦ *How steadfast have you been in your support of others?*
- ✦ *Thank Jesus for his willingness to forgive your fickleness.*

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF CYCLONE—MARAK

St. Joseph, Cyclone & Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak

Pastor: Rev. RanJan Cletus

Mailing address: 20120 FM 485, Burlington, TX 76519.....**Phone** 254-985-2280

Email: cyclone.marak@gmail.com **Website:** marakchurch.org

Masses: Cyclone: Sat. 5:30PM & Sun. 8:15AM; Weekdays: Tue, Thurs & Friday: 7AM

Marak: Sundays: 10:15AM and Wednesday 5:30PM(unless otherwise stated)

The Sacraments:

Baptism: On Sundays after Mass. Please contact the pastor for scheduling a meeting with him; a preparation program may be needed. Parents must be registered parishioners of St. Joseph, Cyclone or Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak.

Confessions: Before Mass on the weekend and anytime by appointment.

Marriage: Couples planning to be married should contact the pastor at least six months in advance before you set the date of the wedding. Completion of required paperwork and a preparation program needed.

MARCH 28, 2021—PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Crowned with thorns, our Lord is lifted up on the Cross, where He dies as "King of the Jews." Notice how many times He is called "king" in today's Gospel—mostly in scorn and mockery. As we hear the long accounts of His Passion, at every turn we must remind ourselves—He suffered this cruel and unusual violence for us. He is the Suffering Servant foretold by Isaiah in today's First Reading. He reenacts the agony described in today's Psalm, and even dies with the first words of that Psalm on His lips (see [Psalm 22:1](#)). Listen carefully for the echoes of this Psalm throughout today's Gospel—as Jesus is beaten, His hands and feet are pierced; as His enemies gamble for His clothes, wagging their heads, mocking His faith in God's love, His faith that God will deliver Him.

Are we that much different from our Lord's tormenters? Often, don't we deny that He is King, refusing to obey His only commands that we love Him and one another? Don't we render Him mock tribute, pay Him lip service with our half-hearted devotions? In the dark noon of Calvary, the veil in Jerusalem's temple was torn. It was a sign that by His death Jesus destroyed forever the barrier separating us from the presence of God.

He was God and yet humbled Himself to come among us, we're reminded in today's Epistle. And despite our repeated failures, our frailty, Jesus still humbles Himself to come to us, offering us His body and blood in the Eucharist. His enemies never understood: His kingship isn't of this world (see [John 18:36](#)). He wants to write His law, His rule of life on our hearts and minds. As we enter Holy Week, let us once more resolve to give Him dominion in our lives. Let us take up the cross He gives to us—and confess with all our hearts, minds, and strength that truly this is the Son of God.



UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

- **SCHOLARSHIPS:** Cyclone/Marak Knights of Columbus will be awarding 4—\$500.00 scholarships to graduating seniors. For more information, High School Seniors need to contact Brian Kopriva at 254-697-1715.
- **EASTER EGG HUNT:** KJZT Jrs. and KC Council #10186 are sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday after Mass. Kids don't forget to bring you Easter Baskets.
- **HOLY THURSDAY:** There will be no washing of the feet this year.

3/21: Stewardship: Sunday Offering: \$1,145.00

3/21: Catholic Relief Services: \$10.00

Thank you for Your Generosity!

Ministries for April 1, 2021—Holy Thursday
Eucharistic Minister: Kelly Laurence
Lector: Johnny Winkler
Offertory: Suzanne Gelner & Merlene Slavik
Ushers: Louis Vansa & Leroy Vansa
Altar Servers: Camryn, Colby, Garrison, Annalee

Ministries for April 2, 2021—Good Friday
Eucharistic Minister: Cynthia Prcin
Lector: Alfred & Bernice Vrazel
Offertory: Glen & Sarah Goeres
Ushers: David Hertenberger & Joe Mayer
Altar Servers: Chase, Cade, Cutter

Ministries for April 4, 2021—Easter Sunday
Rosary: Lynne Hornung
Offertory: Kenneth Harris Family
Ushers: Garrett Prcin & Garrey Prcin
Sanctuary Light: March 29th-April 4th: Julie Motyka Padgett by Glenn & Kelly Laurence
Eucharistic Minister: Merlene Slavik
Lector: Rhonda Gelner
Altar Servers: Brady, Claire, Kate

Prayer Chain... Please remember in your daily prayers the faithfully departed, those souls in purgatory, those of our community that are in special need of prayer, those who are homebound or in nursing homes, all those in the military and to all those who have been affected by the Covid-19 Virus and also that the vaccine for the corona virus will help to stop this pandemic & for the following: Colt Charanza, Baby Townes Bush, Paulette Hubnik Foster, Carolyn Klecka, Edward Brenek, Jr., Marilyn Junek Gonzalez, and Doris Matocha. Prayers are powerful!
 To be added to the prayer chain:
 Please contact: **Merlene Slavik—254-697-1247 or email—Slavik@farm-market.net**

MARAK MASSES —March 28– April 4, 2021

Date	Time	Mass Intentions
Today– 3/28	10:15am	Living Members of Hornung Family by Lynne Hornung + Mary Ann Plachy by Jane & Johnnie Marek + Doris Bruggman by Richard & Betty Brenek
4/1—Holy Thursday	5:15pm	+ Annie Mae Hubnik by Zarosky Family + Ethel Moraw by Lynwood Kleypas Family + Martha Hertenberger by Christa Wade
4/2—Good Friday	5:15pm	
4/4—Sunday –Easter	10:15am	+ Denise Michna by Tom & Julie Motyka + Daniel Hromcik by Joe & Sandra Vaculin + Albert Michalka by Michael & Tonia Fulton

CYCLONE MASSES —March 28– April 4, 2021

Date	Time	Mass Intentions
Today – 3/28	8:15am	+ Randolph & Evelyn Green by Kyle & Carla Kacir
3/30—Tuesday	7:00am	+ Wilbert Mikeska by Charlie & Jackie Green
4/1—Thursday	7:15pm	+ Rosa Pechal by Charles & Emilie Tischler
4/2—Friday	3:00pm	STATIONS OF THE CROSS
4/2—Friday	7:15pm	+ Royella Roessler by Nelda & Larry Fritz & Louise Thompson
4/3—Saturday Vigil	8:30pm	+ Albina Vrazel by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mynarcik
4/4—Sunday	8:15am	+ Dolores Motl by Ted Motl

Dear Padre,

I recently converted to Catholicism. Can you tell me more about the significance of the palm branches on Palm Sunday?

Welcome to our faith! And we are delighted to answer your questions. We can consider the meaning of the palm branches on two levels. On the first level, we commemorate a historical event—Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

In biblical times, people saw the palm as a kingly tree because of its height and majestic appearance. During festivals, the Jews carried palm branches in processions. Roman soldiers carried palm branches in their victory parades. In public games, the winners of contests and sports received palm branches as signs of victory. Thus, when people greeted Jesus with palm branches, they were greeting him in the spirit of joy and triumph usually reserved for victorious kings, armies, and athletes. It was the biblical equivalent of a ticker-tape parade!

That brings us to the second meaning for the palm branches. They do signify a joyful victory, but not in the worldly and military sense of the word. It is a victory that we can understand and celebrate only in the light of the other events of Holy Week and Easter Sunday.

The ultimate victory of Jesus was his Easter triumph over death and sin. But it was a victory won through suffering and dying. This is the victory we recall on Palm Sunday. Even though we must relive the sad events of Holy Thursday and Good Friday, we know the triumphant outcome of the story. Knowing that outcome enables us to make Palm Sunday the beginning of our victory celebration.

From *Dear Padre: Questions Catholics Ask*,
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Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



ASHABKYUSHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

This celebration seems to combine stories of joy and suffering, mistakes and successes, which are part of our daily lives as disciples. It somehow expresses the contradictory feelings that we too, the men and women of today, experience: the capacity for great love...but also the ability to "wash our hands" at the right moment.

PALM SUNDAY HOMILY, MARCH 25, 2018



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Calendar

Monday

MARCH 29
Monday of Holy Week
Is 42:1-7
Jn 12:1-11

Tuesday

MARCH 30
Tuesday of Holy Week
Is 49:1-6
Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday

MARCH 31
Wednesday of Holy Week
Is 50:4-9a
Mt 26:14-25

Thursday

APRIL 1
Holy Thursday
Ex 12:1-8, 11-14
1 Cor 11:23-26
Jn 13:1-15

Friday

APRIL 2
Good Friday
Is 52:13-53:12
Heb 4:14-16, 5:7-9
Jn 18:1-19:42

Saturday

APRIL 3
Holy Saturday
Gn 1:1-2:2 or
1:1, 26-31a
Gn 22:1-18 or
22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18
Ex 14:15-15:1
Is 54:5-14
Is 55:1-11
Bar 3:9-15, 32-4:4
Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28
Rom 6:3-11
Mk 16:1-7

Sunday

APRIL 4
Easter
Acts 10:34a, 37-43
Col 3:1-4 or
1 Cor 5:6b-8
Jn 20:1-9 or
Mk 16:1-7

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