



# Lenten Reflections for EOHSJ

## Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion 2021

**Rev. Thomas Vincent Connor**

**A** Greek philosopher, Heraclitus, once taught “the only unchanging factor of reality IS change”. He felt that CHANGE is the only facet of our existence on which we can depend.

**A**s we reflect on the events on Palm Sunday, we see how quickly everything changed for Jesus in a few days. We remember the large crowd that learned that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem and went out to greet Him shouting loudly, 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord". What a dramatic change between “Hosanna in the highest! to “Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!” just a few days hence. What a change from “Blessed is the King, the King of Israel” to “We have no king but Caesar.”

What a change from the crowd waving palm branches and laying them on the road to the wood of the Cross to which He would be nailed a few days later. And the dynamic change from the throngs laying their cloaks across the road, showing Jesus royal respect and honor, to striping Jesus of His garments so as to flog and degrade Him not many days later, and then casting lots for His tunic as He hung dying on the Cross, with the sign “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews” above His head.

**A**n element of our reality is the fleeting and momentary joy of earthly success, achievement, and triumph advancement; it runs away like a thief in the night. If we base our joy on worldly things, our joy will vanish like smoke; as Cervantes' Don Quixote laments, “A man with moonlight in his hand, has nothing there at all.”

Our joy must be grounded in Christ Jesus, who by His dying and rising, gives us a share in His eternal resurrection. We share death with Jesus of Nazareth when we commit to the promises of our Baptism, so that we can also one day share in His everlasting Resurrection from the Dead. “Dying you destroyed our death; Rising you restored out life”. This does not nor will ever change.

**O**n Palm Sunday, we remember Jesus' triumph entry into Jerusalem, and the crowds singing, 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!" as the multitudes waived palm branches and laid their cloaks on His path as the donkey carried Him into Jerusalem. But we are also aware that the people, a few days later, would quickly change and turn on Jesus, and demand His execution. Change came quickly to those who had come to Jerusalem for Passover.

On Palm Sunday, we begin Jesus' journey from the wood of the palm branches to the wood of the Cross. We gather with the apostles on Holy Thursday to celebrate the Liturgy of the Eucharist, our Passover meal, and then we journey with Him though Good Friday ending with His death on the Cross. But the everlasting change, Christ Jesus' Resurrection from the dead brings us new hope, that by dying with Jesus, we someday will rise with the Christ.

**C**hange is the only unchanging element of our reality; it is the only thing upon which we can depend ... CHANGE. However, there is one exception, Almighty God. There is no change in God... “Glory to Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as it was, is now, and always will be.” The only element of our reality that is not tainted by change is the genesis of our being, our Almighty and Loving God ... our Father's love for us never changes; it is consistent forever.

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