



Is He Walking Alone?

Palm Sunday Year A

Today Church begins the holiest week of Lent, everyone is invited to reflect and meditate on the Triumphant entry of Jesus to Jerusalem, passion, death and resurrection. It is joyful and sorrowful at the same time. We celebrate the Lord's entrance into Jerusalem to the cries of his disciples who acclaim him as King. Yet we also solemnly proclaim the Gospel account of his Passion. In this poignant contrast, our hearts experience in some small measure what Jesus himself must have felt in his own heart that day, as he rejoiced with his friends and wept over Jerusalem. As I was walking on the streets of Jerusalem during my pilgrimage to the Holy Land, I was amazed to see the distances Jesus travelled to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom. I wondered about the people who

were following him leaving their homes and even forgetting to eat. However, during this COVID-19 pandemic, it seems he is walking alone, though he is continuing his journey of suffering and dying for us every day. Our world is shut down, a tiny and unseen virus by eyes has caused crisis in the world, people are finding it hard to walk with Jesus. There were people to lay their clothes on the ground, to carry the branches and shout Hosanna in the Highest, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the Highest. Now there is no voice heard, there is silence rather dead silence. Even the words of Psalmist are going unnoticed:

“Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in. Who is the King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory” (Psalm 24:7-10).

Palm Sunday is a day where we all come together to rejoice in the Lord that he has taken the journey of our salvation as the Prophet Zechariah says “Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! ***Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey: (Zechariah 9:9).*** However, the fear of Corona virus has gone so deep in the world that even people are finding hard to come closer to each other. It seems there is no hope that life will be normal soon. Every new day is bringing a message of disaster, discouragement, hopelessness and stress. In this worse scenario, seems Jesus is walking alone. There is no one to shout for him but still he continues to walk in our streets alone. Is he walking alone? He is not walking alone, he is with us because he is Emmanuel because he is encouraging us: ***“Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion! For lo, I will***

come and dwell in your midst, says the LORD. Many nations shall join themselves to the LORD on that day and shall be my people; and I will dwell in your midst. And you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. The LORD will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land and will again choose Jerusalem. Be silent, all people, before the LORD; for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling” (Zechariah 2:10-13). Jesus loves us and he knows that we are with him in this situation and he is reminding us “Do not let your hearts be troubled, believe in God and believe also in me” (John 14:1). He keeps calling us “Come to me all that are weary and crying heavy burden and I will give you rest”. Prophet Zephaniah encouraging us to rejoice in the Lord who has the power to restore everything back: ***“Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more on that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing”*** (Zephaniah 3:14-17).

Let's walk with Jesus through our daily prayers, meditation and reading of the Bible and shout out with loud cry that he is King of Eternal glory who has set up his tent among us and will wipe every tear from our eyes. May the Loving Father heal the whole world and strengthen our hope that he will never leave us alone.

Fr. Iqbal Khurshid

April 5, 2020 Palm Sunday

We have set up a temporary Chapel in the Faith Room for those that would like to come in and spend time with Jesus, Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm.

Please sanitize before you enter the Faith Room and there are wipes to sanitize your chair before you leave.

Stay Healthy