

Pastor's Letter

March 24, 2024—Palm Sunday of The Passion of the Lord

Dear Church Family,

Today the church experiences the emotional whiplash of Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion. At the beginning of Mass, we hear about the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem at Passover. The crowds welcome him with acclamations that call to mind the coming of the Messiah. They see him as the one sent by God to save Israel. By the end of the week, however, these same crowds will turn on him and call for his death by crucifixion. Even his closest friends will desert him.

We see here how fickle people can be and how futile it is to seek popular approval. There is only one person whose faithfulness will never change, who will never fail us, and that's God. And God is the only one whose approval we should be seeking. Pleasing God and following his will for us may not make us very popular, but our goal is something much more important and lasting than fame or fortune in this life. We are made for the eternal joys of heaven and Jesus has shown us how to get there.

Jesus has shown us that the path to life is the path of humble submission to the will of God. As St. Paul says, "He emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Jesus poured out his life for us so that we would be able to receive life from the Father. His obedience brought him through death on the cross into the resurrection. If we follow his example, our obedience will bring us to be with him forever with all the saints in light.

As we come into Holy Week, we ponder everything that has been won for us by our Lord's sacrificial suffering and death. We remember how superficial and fleeting the pleasures and honors of this life are and recommit ourselves to striving for things that are eternal by living as Jesus lived, giving as he gave, and proclaiming everywhere that He is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Blessings,

Fr. Scott