

## Palm Sunday – April 14, 2019 – (At the gospel before the procession)

Jesus expects his followers to change their culture for the better with what they value, what they think, their (His) vision of the world. For Jesus, life is not about ME but about WE who share this planet, this world together. Popular Jewish culture of that era felt that the Messiah would be a military leader who would lead the Jewish people into battle to overthrow the Roman occupation. Such a Messiah would come riding a horse, a military weapon of war.

So when Jesus rode into Jerusalem, people would have simultaneously felt good news and bad news. The good news is: The Messiah has finally arrived. The bad news is: He's arrived on a donkey, an ass, a beast of burden. Jesus' very mode of transportation challenges the culture's idea of a Messiah.

How can we, as followers of Jesus, challenge the culture of death around us to have a vision of LIFE, life to the fullest, life for all the people in the world? Let us process to receive the word of God and Christ's very presence in the Eucharist.

### Luke's passion homily

As we watch the people who were involved in Luke's account of the passion, what can we learn from them? The disciples at the supper missed the point of Jesus' prayer over the bread and wine. After Jesus blessed their meal as a sacrament of his self-giving, they argued again about status. That quarrel showed they still didn't get it. They didn't understand their call to be SERVANTS.

Peter's greatest act of discipleship came not in his promises, but in his tears.

The only two who seemed to grasp the appreciate the meaning of Christ's passion were **strangers**. The first of them was one of Jesus' fellow victims, whom we have labeled "**the good thief**," who believed as he was dying. The other was the **centurion**, who upon seeing how Jesus died, glorified God and said, "Surely this man was righteous." These declarations of faith, one presumably Jewish who had been judged a criminal deserving of capital punishment under Roman law, and the other a gentile Roman centurion, **were** a sign that Jesus had fulfilled his mission. These two show us the saving effects of Jesus' death. Let us follow our Christ even unto death where we meet him.

Christ has died. Christ IS risen. Christ will come again.