

Palm Sunday April 5 2009

Isaiah 50: 4-9a

Psalms 31: 9-16

Philippians 2: 5-11

Mark 15: 1-47

Lord may the words that I speak be the words that you would want spoken.
Amen

What a JOY !!!! The people many years ago were prepared to celebrate the coming of their ancestor David. Jesus was being hailed as the king that was to come. Today we continue to come into the church with our Palm branches in hand and a Palm Cross on our garments. We praise the Lord God in the reading from Isaiah, "It is the Lord God who helps me". The Psalmist writes, "My times are in your hand". Paul writes, "Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name".

But how quickly joy can turn into sadness and our outlook takes on an entirely different approach to life. We have only been in the service about 16 minutes and things have already changed. Our lives today are not much different than it was back then. We experience joy and sadness within minutes of each other when things go different than we expected. The major difference we have today that they were not able to see right away is the experience of Jesus Christ's death being for the forgiveness of our sins and a life that now has hope in everlasting life. Is it not amazing that the first person that was able to respond to the death of Jesus Christ was a Roman soldier who stated, "This man really was the Son of God". You might have thought it would have been one of the disciples or some of his followers; but no, it was one that had been part of this political crucifixion.

To me this gives us hope as sinners that we also have that opportunity to know Jesus better because of his love shown to us by dying on the cross for our sins. You know the rest of the story, but can you imagine how those followers felt not knowing the outcome of the resurrection?

To fully understand the life and death of Jesus and to witness the true experience of God's son dying for our sins; I invite all of you to attend the Maundy Thursday service, the Friday morning Stations of the Cross, and the Saturday morning liturgy. To allow yourself a true and holy Lent you need to conclude this Season of Lent not just on Easter Sunday but the on the days following up to that time.

There is nothing more important to your health and salvation than to participate in every service during Holy Week.

Amen