

Reflection for Palm Sunday, April 5th, 2020

Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11

So here we are: The Entry into Jerusalem! Jesus has come to the “end of his journey”. Jesus and his disciples have arrived in Jerusalem to celebrate days of Feasting, as the Jewish Community prepares for their annual Passover. As Jesus enters the city, he senses the brewing conflict between Jewish leadership and his own message as a messianic prophet.

As we have listened to the previous Sunday Gospels, we hear the words contributing to a conflict: Jesus offers the woman at the well “living water” [Jn 4:5-42]. And the fourth Sunday of Lent, the man born blind proclaims: “One thing I know is that I was blind and now I see...I do believe” [Jn 9:1-41]. And of course, the Raising of Lazarus: “Untie him and let him go free.” [Jn 11:1-45]. All of this sets the scene for the messianic entry into Jerusalem, viewed by the Jewish leaders as defiance, as blasphemy. Thus, our Holy Week prepare us for The Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus the Christ.

We too come to the end of our Lenten Journey. And what a strange Lent it has been. We too want to be “untied” and set free like Lazarus. In previous years, the liturgies and preaching’s of Lent have served us well with prayers, rituals and devotions in our parish Lenten journey. But this year we’ve had to search and pursue our prayers and meditations, creating our own “Lenten” journey. So now, we too enter into our Jerusalem, our sacred days, and our continuing captivity.

May God be with us, together.