

Palm Sunday *

April 10, 2022

With this liturgy, the journey to Jerusalem begins. We come to the end of Jesus' ministry life. In the last three years Jesus has been teaching his disciples/Apostles what is necessary to be his followers. For Luke, Jesus' arrival for the Passover also introduces the symbol of the mountain as he constantly speaks of going UP to Jerusalem; "now as he was approaching the slope of the Mount of Olives the whole multitude began to Praise God with joy".

The choice of the colt of the donkey symbolizing the "first born" never ridden before. As a King would ride a strong steed coming to his kingdom, so Jesus rides this humble animal, small and gentle. Yet they sing: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord."

With this entry into Jerusalem, we enter the holiest week of our Christian Year: Holy Week. So too we have arrived. We have journeyed through these days of Lent. We have prayed with and for our Ukrainian brothers and sisters, we have been shocked by the inhumanity of this war. As we go up with Jesus to the "place of the skull", this year we behold the deaths of the innocents. How can we "rest on the Sabbath"?