

# Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

March 24, 2024

## Watch

A certain vigilance is required if we're to be counted among the friends of Jesus. I don't mean the kind of paranoia that comes of imagining enemies behind every tree. But when the hour of crisis comes, as it always does, we have to be prepared. The time for reciting creeds, learning lessons, practicing virtues, and performing rituals will be past. When the hour comes, it is time to act.

All the rest—the creeds, lessons, virtues, and rituals—are meant to fortify us for the critical hour. They aren't ends in themselves. We aren't meant to warehouse our religious training and practices like shares in stock that reap eternal rewards. Religious practices are like the copybooks of children who rehearse the alphabet for future and more creative uses. Watch for the hour when all you've learned and all you believe summons you to take the actions you were born for.

*Alice Camille, Our Lenten Road to Holiness: Daily Reflections, Prayers and Actions (Waterford, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 2024). Used with permission.*

## Questions to Ponder:

What is a crisis that you have encountered and lived through in your lifetime? How did you make it through the crisis?

What is a religious practice that you rely on when you face the challenges of life? Who taught you that practice and why does it give you comfort and strength?

How have you grown through these past six weeks of Lent?  
How will you take this growth into the Easter Season?

## Lectio Divina: Read Mark 11:7-10

So they brought the colt to Jesus and put their cloaks over it. And he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out: "Hosana! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come! Hosanna in the highest!"

What word or phrase from this Scripture passage most resonates with you?

How will this reading shape your life this week as you prepare for the most sacred celebrations of our faith?

**Challenge for the Week:** As you enter this holiest of weeks, keep your eyes, ears, and heart open for those in need of having their feet washed. What will your response be? Bring all of this to Mass on Holy Thursday.