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**FOR THE WEEKEND OF APR 9-10, 2022**

Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion

**Gospel reading (Lectionary 37)**At the Procession with Palms

Lk 19:28-40  
  
*Note: There is also the longer passion narrative Gospel proclaimed during the Mass, not included here.*

Jesus proceeded on his journey up to Jerusalem.  
As he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany  
at the place called the Mount of Olives,  
he sent two of his disciples.  
He said, “Go into the village opposite you,  
and as you enter it you will find a colt tethered  
on which no one has ever say.  
Untie it and bring it here.  
And if anyone should ask you,  
‘Why are you untying it?’  
you will answer,  
‘The Master has need of it.’”  
So those who had been sent went off  
and found everything just as he had told them.  
And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them,  
“Why are you untying this colt?”

They answered,  
“The Master has need of it.”  
So they brought it to Jesus,  
threw their cloaks over the colt,  
and helped Jesus to mount.  
As he rode along,  
the people were spreading their cloaks on the road;  
and now as he was approaching the slope of the Mount of Olives,  
the whole multitude of his disciples began to praise God aloud with joy  
for all the mighty deeds they had seen.  
They proclaimed:  
 “Bless is the king who comes  
 in the name of the Lord.  
 Peace in heaven  
 and glory in the highest.”  
Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him,  
“Teacher, rebuke your disciples.”  
He said in reply,  
“I tell you, if they keep silent,  
the stones will cry out!”

**Intercession**

For our parish community, that encouraged by Christ’s entry into his Passion, we might enter Holy Week with renewed dedication to our Lenten practices of prayer, penance, and almsgiving.

**Copy for bulletin announcement**

If you’ve ever run a race, you know that the home stretch isn’t the time to take your foot off the gas. It’s the time to give everything you’ve got—to push through the fatigue and the pain in order to ensure that you finish what you set out to accomplish. Christ’s entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday marks the beginning of His “home stretch”—His passion, death, and resurrection, the completion of His mission of redemption. Jesus knows what His enemies are planning for Him, but he doesn’t hide from them. He enters Jerusalem to the praise of the public. He commits Himself to completing the task ahead.

As we begin Holy Week, we enter the home stretch of our Lenten season and our preparations for Easter. No matter how you’ve done with your Lenten disciplines to this point, now is the time to put the pedal to the metal. Now is the time to rededicate yourself to prayer, penance, and almsgiving. Now is time to make sure that we finish well the journey we set out on together nearly 40 days ago.

Rather than looking back, let’s look forward to the week ahead, our Lenten home stretch. If you’re still looking for an opportunity for Lenten almsgiving, which is a great way to grow in self-detachment, consider supporting our Annual Diocesan Appeal. Spend some time with the Lord today, asking Him how He’s inviting you to finish Lent strong.

**Copy for pulpit announcement**

Finish Lent strong! As a final act of Lenten almsgiving, please consider supporting our Annual Diocesan Appeal.

**Social media post/content**

Photo: Cross/palm

Copy: We’ve entered Holy Week. May each of us commit to supporting our diocese’s Annual Appeal as a final act of Lenten almsgiving.