

Homily – March 29, 2026

Grace and peace to you my friends and fellow sojourners as we conclude our journey together this Lenten season.

Last week, I talked primarily about three things; liturgical seasons, and the progressive pattern in the scriptures for Lent, and finally, I told you to come back in two weeks for the end of this pattern and the start of new life.

Today is Palm Sunday, which is the beginning of what is called Holy Week which leads into the liturgical season called The Three Days. You might ask, “why is it called Holy Week?” First, we should know that “Holy” means consecrated or dedicated to God of for a religious purpose, or sacred. Second, it was first called the “Great Week” in Greek and Roman liturgical texts because of the great works of God commemorated this week. Third, we should, therefore, delineate God’s great works this week. Of course, today celebrates Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Monday and Tuesday reflect Jesus’ teachings and actions in the Temple. Wednesday, spy Wednesday, marks Judas’ betrayal. Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper and Jesus washing the disciples feet. Good Friday observes Jesus’ trial, crucifixion, and death. And then on Saturday, Jesus rests in the tomb before the resurrection.

We so often focus on Jesus’ divinity that we forget the importance of Jesus’ humanity. It is in Jesus’ humanity that God meets us in our everyday lives, where we live. When I am driving alone, I often sing a song about Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane on Thursday night and Friday morning of Holy Week. This song comes from Andrew Lloyd Weber’s rock opera, “*Jesus Christ, Superstar.*”

I only want to say, if there is a way, take this cup away from me, for I don’t want to taste its poison, feel it burn me I have changed I’m not as sure as when we started, Then I was inspired, now I’m sad and tired, listen surely I’ve exceeded expectations, tried for three years seems like thirty, could you ask as much from any other man, but if I die, see the saga thru and do the things you ask of me, let them hate me, hit me, hurt me, nail me to their tree, can you show me now that I would not be killed in vain show me just a little of your omnipresent brain, why should I die, would I be more noticed than I ever was before, would the things I’ve said and done matter anymore you’re far too keen on where and how and not so hot on why, alright I’ll die just watch me die, then I was inspired now I’m sad and tired after all I’ve tried for three years seems like ninety why then am I scared to finish what I started what you started I didn’t start it God thy will is hard but you hold every card I will drink your cup of poison nail me to their cross and break me, bleed me beat me, kill me take me now before I change my mind.

Have you ever heard the phrase, “If you don’t like this weather, wait five minutes and it will change.”? Do you think this is unique to where you live? Not really, every state has their own version of this and I suspect many countries do too. Do you know who it is attributed to? Mark Twain and Will Rodgers are a couple persons most often cited. I used this today because I think of it as an apt description of Jesus’ life with the disciples during Holy Week some 2000 years ago. A triumphal parade, anger, disappointment, frustration and teaching in the Temple, emotion and grace in the upper room, tears and betrayal in the garden, a mockery of a trial, abuse and pain and death at the crucifixion. This Holy Week is the synopsis of our lives with God and Jesus.

Hear then the good news:

God’s action this week in Jesus is God **seeking** to make us children of God, heirs of the kingdom.

Grace and peace to you my friends, this week – reflect on what God goes through, the ups and downs, the pains of humanity, in order to make you an heir to the kingdom.

**Amen**