

HOMILY FOR PALM SUNDAY

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Lent has ended and Holy Week is beginning...a time of more intense fasting and penance and reflection. Today is the day to reflect on where we've been and where we're going. Using the gospel to prayerfully guide this spiritual adventure... we can discover; who we are as people of God... where He's asking us to follow.

PAUSE

///"Father, allow us to SEE with Your eyes... HEAR with Your ears... SPEAK with Your voice."

Judas: a hero to the high priest... a traitor to Jesus; "/// grant us the gifts of wisdom and discernment in what and whom we support with... our voices...our money...our time...our reputation."

Jesus said "the one who dips with me" /// When we point our fingers in accusations may we find we have dipped them in the bowl with you... and repent.

"Upon hearing 'This is my body... This is my blood....' May our prayer be /// we believe...help our unbelief."

" Have you come out as against a robber" When we see our worlds tumble and crash... when the courage of our convictions fails us... when we feel betrayed... abandoned.../// Let your words echo "all of you will have your faith shaken." .... THEN during our darkest hours allow us to remember ...you **aren't** sleeping... you're there defending us... watching over us... that you love AND died for us.

“Many gave false witness against him.” When we face people whose beliefs are different from ours...when they call us heretics and want to crucify us.../// when it’s our voice **ALONE** that speaks out against injustice ... You are there.

They blindfolded him...Power over others is so intoxicating...its blindness may cause us to bully others in ways we might not be aware. /// Open our eyes “Give us courage to do what is right in your SIGHT.”

“They pressed into service...” Are we willing to give our time in prayer to “carry the cross” for others... or do we say.../// “How can we help others carry their cross when we can BARELY carry our own?”

“They all shouted...” Public pressure and the voice of the masses are strong influences... ///when they cry “crucify him” will our voices be among theirs... do we even bother to look for the truth... is it easier pass on gossip than to defend justice.

“They mocked him” When we come face to face with ridicule and contempt for all we believe...from people who have judged us... crucified us... from deep within our being a guttural voice wells up in anguish and cries /// “MY GOD MY GOD WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME”...whisper... do we share in our savior’s humanity ...or do we wish we could hide in a tomb.

Then Jesus said to them,

“All of you will have your faith shaken, for it is written: ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be dispersed... /// Father help us understand how our Lords passion and death lives on ..... in our lives.