

## **Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion: Don't Observe, Participate**

Holy Week begins today with our journey with the Lord from Palms to Passion. This Thursday we will celebrate the Last Supper. On Friday, Good Friday, we will pray beneath the Cross. We will celebrate the gift of Eternal Life on Easter Sunday.

It is easy for us to be just observers of the various liturgies, as though we will watching a film on Salvation History. But observing gets us nowhere. Nor does the mere remembrance of the events of almost 2000 year ago benefit us a whole lot. What we need to do is participate.

So we join the crowd on Palm Sunday and proclaim with our lives that Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ. We listen to the proclamation of the Passion today and on Good Friday, and we picture ourselves as standing under the Lord's cross, perhaps with our arm around Mary, his mother and now our mother. We pray with the Good Thief, "Lord, remember me when you come into your Kingdom."

We celebrate the Eucharist at the Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, and we treasure the gift of His Body and Blood which is offered up from us on Good Friday. We prepare for this gift by caring for those who reach out to us. Before we can celebrate the Eucharist we have to wash the feet of others.

At the Easter Vigil we don't just witness those who come into Christianity through baptism, we join them in recommitting our lives to the Lord. We do this at all the Masses of Easter by renewing our baptismal promises.

Come and pray with us this week. Come. Come and celebrate Jesus. Come and celebrate the life that makes all life meaningful.