

## Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion: Blood and Mercy

I want to begin today by going back to the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> and beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. In Norwich, England, an anchoress known as Julian of Norwich, prayed for a deeper understanding of the Lord. She was rewarded with visions which she wrote in her book, *Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love*, or as it is usually called, *Showings*.

Julian prayed for a deeper understanding of the Suffering of the Lord. She had a vision of the crucified Christ. Blood flowed from his wounds and, in her vision, it filled the tiny cell in which she lived. The blood was so abundant that it almost covered her bed. Julian understood that there was no limit to Christ's sacrifice. He died to fill the world with His love, His grace, and His very blood.

Passion Sunday reminds us that his blood is flowing over us, to cleanse us, to wash us, to heal us. One of the men suffering on a cross next to Jesus, a man whom we call Dismis, realized the power of the blood of the Holy One. Dismis proclaimed his faith in Jesus even as Jesus was dying. He then became the first person assured that on that very day he would be with Jesus in Paradise. The Blood of Christ saved Him.

The Blood of Christ saves us. The devil has lost his hold on humanity, all of us and each of us. Death has been defeated by death. Eternal death has been defeated by the death on the Cross. The fruit of disobedience has been destroyed by the fruit of obedience. Pride has been defeated by humility. Hate has been defeated by love. And we are participants in all this, we are participants in the Victory of the Cross. For, like Dismis, we accept the death of Christ as our pathway to heaven. Remember us Lord when you come into your Kingdom.

We enter this week, this Holy Week proclaiming our faith in the One who died for us. Join your parish on Holy Thursday and celebrate the beautiful Mass of the Lord's Supper. Pray for a deeper understanding of the Blood of the Covenant which Jesus said would be shed for us.

Join your parish on Good Friday for the Liturgy of the Veneration of the Cross. This simple yet solemn service culminates in our reverencing the Cross, our saying "Thank You" to the one who died for us. It is an amazing liturgy giving us a real experience of the Love of God filling the rooms of our lives to overflowing just as in Julian of Norwich's vision her room was filled with the loving blood of our Savior.

Join your parish for the beautiful solemn Easter Vigil and first Easter Mass. Be sure you find out your parish's times for these liturgies and all the Easter Masses.

Come and proclaim that by the death of the Lord we have been saved.