

### King? Really?

This Sunday, called "Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion" has two halves to it, palms and passion. They stand in jarring contrast to each other.

1) The palms in the people's hands, proclaiming Jesus' kingship.

In the Mass, we are holding palms during the ritual procession, just as people did who lined the road long ago. This opening part of this Mass is more than just another historical reenactment, it is a proclamation of Jesus as king, the first half of the jarring contrast.

You may never have caught the kingly aspect of this but there are multiple clues in the First Gospel (the one that takes place before the palm procession). First, he rode on a colt, the animal that was used for royalty's entrance into a city. The disciples spread their cloaks over the colt's back as they would for a king.

Crowds along the way greeted Jesus as a royal hero. They spread out their coats upon the roadway, then covered these with palm branches cut from the fields. This was in order to soften the pathway for the kingly one and to keep the dirt off of him. They cried out, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

2) The soldiers, mocking and doing their best to destroy Jesus' kingship

The Mass itself and its Passion Reading show Jesus' kingship ridiculed and made into a fool's tale. Soldiers tie him up and yell at him, "King of the Jews," to deride this poor, ridiculous captive. They jam a "royal" crown made of thorns on his head. They wrap a fake robe of purple around him (the color reserved for kings because of its rarity in those days). They spit on him. They strike him. They laugh. They make a tortured fool out of this great "king."

The First Reading had already told us why such torture happened. Because the King chose it. The reading says,

I have not rebelled, have not turned back. I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting.

You or I would have cried out, "My God, why have you abandoned me?"

The Responsorial Psalm says exactly these words, and Jesus will say them from the cross.

Are these the words of a king? Does such a total surrender represent kingly action?

Yes.

Jesus, king of kings, "did not regard equality with God as something to cling to"—for safety or honor or for whatever other reason. As the greatest king he emptied himself out, became like a slave, obedient even to death on the cross (Second Reading). This, in allegiance to God and in service of the people.

The jarring contrast is put to rest because Jesus knew who he was, even under the worst duress and strife. He was the one who loves, no matter what.

This is the opposite of greatness as we imagine it. The real basis of rulership is service of God's people, no matter what. The good ruler pulls a kingdom together and makes it safe, a place of abundance. If a ruler accomplishes such a goal, (and in the USA we are experiencing this) no kingly suffering could be too great. Palm/Passion Sunday is a large scale revelation of kingship's real meaning.

Love.

John Foley, SJ

## Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord March 28, 2021

### St. Stephens Indian Mission

www.saintstephensmission.com

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Sr. Monica Suhayda, CSJ.....Past. Asst./ Gift Shop 856-4330

Patti McMahon.....Director of Religious Education

### Blessed Sacrament & St. Josephs

332-9090

Sr. Teresa Frawley, OSF.....Past. Asst./Director of Religious Education

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation & Sacrament of the Sick

You may call the office to schedule an appointment for confession. If there is no answer please leave your name and phone number and Father Jim will return your call. Please do not schedule an appointment if you are sick, please wait until you are well to protect yourself and the priest. Priest and penitent will be required to wear a mask and maintain a safe six foot distance during confession.

The Sacrament of the sick is available for those who are in need, terminal and to those who have an upcoming surgery. Please call the office if you or a loved one is in need of this sacrament.

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Come in seeking; come in wondering; come in hurting. Come into this house of companionship and compassion. Come in. You are welcome here. Our faith Family opens its doors to you and in the name of Christ, bids you Welcome!  
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*The purpose of St. Stephen's Indian Mission, the presence of the Roman Catholic Church among the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho, is to grow into a strong community of believers, sharing our lives in the Holy Spirit, forming one welcoming People of God, who are committed to Jesus Christ, His gospel and mission.*

## Readings March 29th through April 4th:

Mon: Is 42:1-7; Ps 27:1-3, 13-14; Jn 12:1-11  
 Tue: Is 49:1-6; Ps 71:1-4a, 5-6b, 15, 17; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38  
 Wed: Is 50:4-9a; Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34; Mt 26:14-25  
 Thur: Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9; Ps 89:21-22, 25, 27; Rv 1:5-8; Lk 4:16-21  
 Fri: Is 52:13-53:12; Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25; Heb 4:14-16, 5:7-9; Jn 18:1-19:43  
 Sat: Gn 1:1-2:2; Ps 104; Gn 22:1-18; Ps 16; Ex 14:15-15:1; (Ps) Ex 15:1-6, 17-18;  
 Is 54:-14; Ps 3-; Is 55:1-11; (Ps) Is 12:2-6; Bar 3:9-15, 32:4:4; Ps 19:8-11;  
 Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28; Pss 42; Rom 6:3-11; Ps 118;; Mk 16:1-7  
 Sun: Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9

### Parish Collection

Last week's mail in collection \$492  
*"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." Corinthians 9:7*

### Mass Intentions this week

3/28:	Sunday	Intention of donor
	Sunday	For the People
3/31:	Wednesday 5pm	+Danny Ortiz
4/1:	Holy Thursday	+Marge St. Clair
4/2:	Good Friday	Good Friday Service
4/3:	Saturday Easter Vigil	+Julian, --Joan, +Jeff Montoya
4/4:	Easter Sunday	Intention of donor
	Easter Sunday	For the people
	Easter Sunday	+Brian Williams
	Easter Sunday	+Evette

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Praise Him now and always!

Catholic Schoolhouse, a local homeschool program, is currently registering students for the 2021/2022 academic year in Lander. More than an academic co-op, Catholic Schoolhouse is a structured program for homeschoolers, meeting one morning a week, that includes chorus, two hours of classroom instruction, hands-on science, art projects, and opportunities for socializing after class. Please join us at 2pm on Sunday April 11th for an information meeting at the Lasnoski house (545 S. 4th St., Lander), or contact Caitlin Lasnoski (landerwy@catholicsschoolhouse.com).

**Holy Name Catholic School** is seeking a full-time Office Manager. The ideal candidate shall possess strong administrative, managerial and bookkeeping skills.

**Holy Name Catholic Church** is seeking a full-time custodian/maintenance apprentice. Experience in building, construction, HVAC systems and equipment operation is essential. A keen eye for detail and cleanliness is desired.

*Both positions are full-time with benefits, salary is dependent on experience. Please mail a resume and two letters of references to: Business Manager, Holy Name Parish Office at 9 South Connor Street, Sheridan, WY 82801.*

Please pray for the family of the deceased:

+Noreen Bowen

+Alfred M. Spoonhunter, Jr.

*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*



"Remember finally, that the ashes that were on your forehead are created from the burnt palms of last Palm Sunday. New beginnings invariably come from old false things that are allowed to die." ~ Richard Rohr

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*"We need to develop the awareness that nowadays either we are all saved together or no one is saved."*

POPE FRANCIS

*c.f. Fratelli Tutti, 137*

It is our moral responsibility to accept the COVID-19 vaccine— for the sake of our own health and solidarity with the most vulnerable



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COVID - 19  
Vatican Commission

**If you would like to donate an Easter lily for the altar please bring to the church by Friday. Thank you!**