



Ask, Father James:

"Who is this?" "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee." (Matthew 21:11)

After three years of ministry, Jesus entered Jerusalem, to reveal himself as MESSIAH. He rode-in on a donkey, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee." They were waving palm branches, meaning, Jesus is worthy of praise and worship. The waving of palms, the scattering of cloaks upon the ground, the shouts of "Hosanna" are very public expressions of belief. So are we. After five Sundays of Lent, today we wave palms celebratory while also somber because of the reality of his coming Passion which will culminate in his death on the cross on Good Friday. The remaining week in Lent (HOLY WEEK) will give us many ways to reflect on our own answer to the question: Who is this?

As Roman Catholics, we believe that the Paschal Triduum are the holiest days of the liturgical year. The Paschal Triduum celebrates Jesus' saving passion, death, and resurrection. Holy Week liturgies are more than a recounting of past events, for the mysteries are made present to the whole assembly. The liturgies of Holy Week have both human and divine elements. It represents our belief that Jesus comes from God: "Blessed be the one who comes in the name of the Lord." He comes to offer himself as the eternal sacrifice and redemption through the Paschal Mysteries to be celebrate on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. The events that changed the world.

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