

Pastor Roy's Homily from Palm Sunday - April 14, 2014

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Palms and shouts of praise greet the master teacher and prophet, the son of David, on Sunday as he enters Jerusalem—respect, honor, gratitude. By early Friday morning, an angry crowd is whipped into a frenzy of self righteous hatred. The same is evicted from the holy city. This is the Jews--and us--at our finest and worst. Saints and sinners.

This is Jesus, servant of all--suffering servant who calls us to humbly serve, not because we have great spiritual goods to offer the sinful masses, but because we share the weakness of all. We look within, we strain to hear Jesus' invitation—and it calls us to humility, we feel the Spirit's nudge opening us to the mercy of God, and we are free. Truly free. Not because we have achieved goodness, but because we have embraced God's judgment of mercy for us and our neighbor. We are free. Our righteousness in Christ is not goodness but mercy—which leads to peace.

Jesus the servant teaches us to serve with compassionate mercy. His mercy for friend and foe invites us to freely do likewise.

May this Holy Week remind us of mercy, love, and the nature of true freedom.

Thanks be to God.