

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
March 25, 2018
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Isaiah 50:4-7 + Philipians 2:6-11 + Mark 14: 1-14--15:47



Reflection by: Mary Lanni, OPA

At the beginning of the Palm Sunday liturgy, we raise a delicate strip of palm and symbolically become part of that long-ago crowd that greeted Jesus on His way to the Passover celebration in Jerusalem. In that crowd, as with all crowds with a purpose, there were believers, non-believers, skeptics, hopefuls and just passersby.

For the believers, there was great joy and an outpouring of love and praise for Jesus. He was hailed as the Messiah, Son of God. They cried out. "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." They had felt His healing hands and saw His miracles. They spread their cloaks before Him. They wanted Him for their King.

For the non-believers, there was only negativity and judgment. They heard His words and called them blasphemy. They saw his miracles and called them magic. They saw how people were drawn to Him but misread His power and feared losing their own. They wanted to kill Him.

For the rest, without conviction or emotional attachment, there was only an interest in which side would be the winners. They wanted to be on the side of the winners even when it was a bad choice. They probably went on to join the new crowd that shouted, "Crucify Him."

How blessed we are to be among the believers. Raising our simple palm leaf we affirm that we belong to Jesus who lived among us, showed us a loving God — a compassionate, forgiving God — and who destroyed the fear of death by His own resurrection. He is our Lord and King.