PALM SUNDAY: MARCH 29TH, 2026

THE SURRENDERED HEART

The Church celebrates this sixth Sunday of Lent as both Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday. This is the point in the Liturgical year when the Church stops us so that we can remember and relive the events which brought about our redemption and salvation. What we commemorate and relive during this week is not just Jesus' dying and rising, but our own dying to sin and selfishness and rising in Jesus, which will result in our healing, reconciliation, and redemption. Attentive participation in the Holy Week liturgy will deepen our relationship with God, increase our Faith, and strengthen our lives as disciples of Jesus. Today's liturgy combines contrasting moments, one of glory, the other of suffering: the royal welcome of Jesus entering Jerusalem, and the rigged trial, culminating in the crucifixion, death, and burial of Christ.

Story: Jonny Common, Jump: A child stands at the edge of a swimming pool. His toes curl over the side. His arms are tight. His heart is racing. In the water below, his father stretches out his arms and says, *"Come on. Johnny - Jump. I've got you."* The child in his mind thinks, "What if you don't catch me?" "What if I sink?" The father doesn't move. He just says again, *"Trust me, Johnny."* And finally, the child jumps. And of course… he's caught. **That is surrender**. Not because the child is strong - but because the father is.

That is exactly what Palm Sunday is about – Surrender: Jesus rides into Jerusalem knowing what waits for Him - ***The Cross:*** betrayal, unjust trial, judgment, condemnation, torture, and crucifixion. Yes, the ***Cross***. And still, He goes forward. He doesn't cling to safety and comfort. He doesn't turn back. He entrusts everything to the Father. As Max Lucado reminds us: ***You can trust your life to the One who gave His life for you***.

In a short video, Let God love you: Max said, "You are loved by God with an unearthly love. Don't confuse it with the love of people. It does not come and go. You can't earn it or disqualify yourself from it. God loves you simply because He has chosen to. And to the degree you trust the love of God, your heart will soften."

But that's where we sometimes struggle, myself included. We stand at the edge, just like that child—holding tightly to control, to plans, to fear. We want to follow Jesus… as long as we feel safe and comfortable. And then comes that other voice: "Don't let go." "You'll fall." "You can't trust God completely."

But Palm Sunday reveals the truth: "**My God, My God, why have You abandoned Me**?" (Psalm 22) plunges us right into the heart of Christ's Passion. Jesus lets go—completely. Even when it

leads to suffering. Even when it leads to the Cross. And the Father does not abandon Him. And He will not abandon you.

Conclusion

So, as we enter Holy Week, the question is simple: Why and where are you still standing on the edge?
It is okay to be Nervous and worried about what might happen. We can learn to trust Jesus Christ with our whole lives. TRUST HIM. What are you afraid to place in God's hands?
Friends, **Lent ends not in giving things up… rather, Lent ends in giving ourselves over to Christ**.
And when we finally surrender, when we finally jump, we discover something unexpected:

† We are not falling.

† We are being held.

And that is where freedom begins.

Ø Freedom to love.

Ø Freedom to follow.

Ø Freedom to Believe, to Grow, to Love, to Lead, and to Gather.

Ø Freedom to walk with Christ… all the way to the Cross—and beyond. Amen.

God bless you.

Fr. Martin Ezeihuaku, MSP.