

Reflection for Sunday, April 10, 2022

Peace is Every Step

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore, we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. (Romans 6:3-5)

For in Christ the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of the cross. (Colossians 1:19-20)

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. (1 John 3:1)

Simeon took the [baby Jesus] in his arms and praised God. (Luke 2:28)

May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

Let us pray:

We praise you, O God, for your redemption of the world through Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph and was proclaimed Messiah and king by those who spread garments on the donkey he rode and branches along his way. Let these branches be signs of his victory, and grant that we may follow him in the way of the cross, that, dying and rising with him, we may enter into your kingdom, through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Holy Week begins with this Sunday called both Passion Sunday and Palm Sunday. Crowds who hailed Jesus on Palm Sunday saw him nailed

to the cross at the end of the week. The hymn “He Came Riding on a Donkey!” captures these two dimensions. Jesus’ life in these days moved toward the full expression of his passion, his suffering and death on the cross. On the cross, Jesus breathed his last. His cry was to God, into whose hands he entrusted his life. Then death came. Yet from this death came new life for those who see in the death of Jesus Christ God’s inexhaustible love reaching out to reconcile and restore us to the relationship of love and trust God intends to have with us as God’s people.

Sally A. Brown interprets the sacrificial nature of Jesus’ death by seeing it as his self-donation, his self-giving. He poured his life into our lives, filling our lives with newness we could never imagine. Jesus gave himself up to death, for us. His death overcomes our death so we have new life. We enter Holy Week in awe and wonder at God’s amazing love, poured out for us in Jesus Christ.

Bill Cantelon