

PALM SUNDAY: JESUS IS THE TRUE KING OF THE UNIVERSE

Isaiah 50:4-7; Psalm 22; Philippians 2:6-11; Mark 14:1-15:47

Israel, suffering under foreign powers through the centuries, was hoping and waiting for a new leader, a king who would restore Israel's freedom, independence and prosperity.

What appeared to be a forgotten promise by the ancient Prophets, and an impossible dream, it became reality in Jesus of Nazareth., though not in the way it was understood.

After his arrest and during his passion, Jesus, scourged and wearing a crown of thorns, certainly did not look like a king.

In actual fact, though he didn't look it in the eyes of humans, Jesus was a true King, a victorious King, who engaged and conquered the real enemies of his kingdom, the spiritual enemies of his people: sin of pride and disobedience, hatred and division, resentments and violence, greed and selfishness. These are the "real" enemies that have been holding God's people in bondage, and under the rule of the devil.

By offering his life on the cross, Jesus fought and defeated the devil and the other fallen angels, whose only goal is to separate us from the love of the Father.

Jesus' sacrifice reconciled humanity with their God, and removed the wall of division that destroys peace in the families and communities.

By his death on the cross Jesus claimed victory over death, and healed us from the disease of sin that prevented us from experiencing and entering the fullness of life in Christ. (John 10:10).

From now on, we don't need to fear suffering and death, but we can join whatever suffering we go through to the one that Jesus experienced, so that it may acquire infinite value for our own salvation and that of others. After all, life in this world is only a preparation for the true and everlasting life with God our Father in heaven.

This is why on Palm Sunday we welcome Jesus as our true and only King. With joy and exultation we sing "Hosanna" to him. We praise him and thank him for the victory he has won for us.

WHEN WE RECEIVE HIM IN THE EUCHARIST, WE JOIN THE HOSTS OF ANGELS AND SAINTS OF HEAVEN IN THE ADORATION OF THE LORD OF LORDS AND KING OF KINGS!