

## Holy Week: A Week That Revolutionized the World

Holy Week, the most sacred and significant week in the Christian calendar, commemorates the events that led to the suffering, crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This week, which spans from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, has inspired, transformed, and revolutionized countless lives, communities, and societies.

On Palm Sunday, we celebrate the full cycle of Jesus' mission; on one hand Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, where he was greeted by crowds waving palm branches and shouting "Hosanna." And on the other hand his passion in which the same people who sang his praise now chorused his condemnation. This great mystery we celebrate is better understood through silence and prayer rather than through words, so as to enter into it with our heart. The triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his passion narrative sets the stage for the events that will unfold during Holy Week and serves as a reminder of the significance of Jesus' mission and message. Pope Benedict commenting on Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem said "He is a king who destroys the weapons of war, a king of peace and a king of simplicity, a king of the poor.... Jesus is not building on violence; he is not instigating a military revolt against Rome"

As we move into Holy Thursday, we are reminded of the significance of the Eucharist and the new commandment of love. St. Augustine notes, "The Lord's Supper, which we celebrate on this day, reminds us of the institution of the Eucharist and the new commandment of love." This event is a pivotal moment in Jesus' ministry, as he institutes the Eucharist and the priesthood and gives his disciples a new commandment to love one another as he has loved them. Pope Francis reflects, "The Eucharist is a gift of love, a sacrament of unity, and a source of strength for our journey of faith." Further, St. Thomas Aquinas noted, "The washing of feet is a sacrament of humility, by which we are cleansed from the stains of sin." This act of humility and service is a powerful reminder of the importance of living a life of service and compassion.

On Good Friday, we reflect on the Passion of Christ and the depth of God's love for us. St. Ignatius of Antioch writes, "I long for the day of my passion, that I may be united with my Lord and Saviour." This desire to be united with Christ is a powerful reminder of the significance of the Passion, and the impact it has on our lives. St. Teresa of Calcutta notes, "The Passion of Christ is a reminder of the depth of God's love for us, and the price He paid for our salvation." The Passion is a powerful reminder of God's love and mercy and serves as a call to us to live a life of love and service. Martin Luther reflects, "The cross of Christ is the greatest sermon ever preached, for it shows us the extent of God's love and mercy."

As we move into Holy Saturday, we eagerly look forward to the Resurrection. St. Ambrose writes, "On this day, we wait in hope and expectation for the Resurrection, just as the disciples waited in sorrow and fear." This day is a time of quiet reflection and anticipation, as we wait for the joy of the Resurrection. St. John Chrysostom notes, "The silence of Holy Saturday is a reminder of the stillness of the tomb, where Christ's body lay in repose." This silence is a powerful reminder of the significance of the Resurrection, and the impact it has on our lives. Pope Benedict XVI reflects, "The darkness of Holy Saturday is a prelude to the light of Easter, when Christ's resurrection brings new life and hope to the world."

As we journey through this sacred week, we are reminded of the power of love, forgiveness, and redemption that Jesus embodied, and which continue to inspire and transform lives today. The significance of Holy Week extends far beyond the events themselves and serves as a powerful reminder of the impact that Jesus' life, death, and resurrection has on our lives and our world, but this revolution begins in each of our hearts.