

# X Trinity 2024

## Sermon – Saint Joseph Parish

### Father Craig Looney

*I Cor. 12.1-11 St. Luke 19.41-46*



It's the first Palm Sunday. Jesus and his disciples are on the road leading down from the Mount of Olives toward Jerusalem. Jesus is about to make his historic and triumphant entry into Jerusalem...that would ultimately lead to his Passion, death and Resurrection.

The crowd following Jesus must have remembered what the prophet Zechariah wrote 600 years earlier...

*...“Rejoice, rejoice people of Zion! Shout for joy, you people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you! He comes triumphant and victorious, but humble and riding on a donkey--- on a colt the foal of a donkey.”*

The people were excited and welcomed Jesus. They threw down palm branches and their coats. They called him their king...the one they hoped would finally bring them the peace they longed for.

The short ride from the Mount of Olives would have given Jesus a panoramic view of the city. He would have seen the city gate. He would have seen the Temple dominating the skyline. He would have seen the people surrounding him. And what he saw brought him to tears.

Jesus isn't crying for himself. He is crying for the city and its people. He weeps heavy tears for the people who would proclaim him king and then turn against him. He weeps for Jerusalem, the name means “City of Peace”, and he says...

*...“If you only knew today what is needed for peace...But now you cannot see it...not a single stone will they leave in its place, because you did not recognize the time God came to save you!”*

It's the failure of the people to recognize him for who he is that caused him to cry...for their missed opportunity.

When Jesus entered the city Sunday he went directly to the Temple. He did not like what he saw. He turned over tables and threw all the moneychangers and sellers out of the Temple. He quoted Isaiah and Jeremiah and charged them with turning God's house into a hideout for thieves.

What set Jesus off was not the money-changing and selling going on in the Temple. That was the way things were done and part of what it meant to serve God and serve the people. What set him off was their greed and unfair business practices, which prevented them from hearing or responding to anything he had to say. They had hijacked their religion to serve themselves.

In the Epistle, Paul confronts some members of the Corinthian Church about their false teaching and fraudulent use of the gifts God had given them through the Holy Spirit. All of us have been blessed with the gift of the Holy Spirit...and we have other gifts that help us build up the Church. God wants us to use our gifts wisely and correctly.

The connection between the Epistle and Gospel is the person of Jesus himself. We need to place ourselves in the crowd welcoming Jesus as our king. We need to walk with him to the Temple, God's house, where we too ask Jesus to give us peace.

We need to hear what Paul writes to the Philippians...

*...“God's peace passes all human understanding, and keeps our hearts and minds through Jesus Christ.”*

We already have God's peace in our hearts. It's an inner peace the world cannot give us. It's an inner peace that sustains us even in troubling times.

This morning's Gospel tells us Jesus wept. There are two other times in the Scriptures we are told Jesus cried deep heartfelt tears. John records Jesus cried at Lazarus's grave. And the author of Hebrews writes...

*...“In his life on earth Jesus made his prayers and requests with loud cries and tears to God, who could save him from death.”*

Jesus' tears reveal what matters most to our loving God (that would be us) Also in Hebrews we read...

*...“He truly is “touched with the feeling of our infirmities.”*

Let's always remember to thank God for the time he came to save us and to give us peace that passes our understanding!

