

Palm Sunday April 9th 2017

THEME: EASTER PALMS

INTRODUCTION,

There is not much to add to the narrative of the Passion of the Lord, except that somebody thought we were worth it, namely Jesus Christ the Son of God. The palms remind us of three truths.

First they remind us of human fickleness how quickly today's heroes can be tomorrows' villain or today's idol can be next year's forgotten person .Today's acclaim can be next month's derision. If we live our lives dependent on human acclaim, popular opinion we are building on the wind . The palms remind us of that.

Secondly, the palms place us within the Passion account. The characters of the Passion are not creatures from outer space. They are us. Through our reading of the Passion we can identify with Peter's denial, with Judas' betrayal ,with the disciples' flight, with Pilate's cowardice with the leaders

cynicism or with the crowd's mindless frenzy. We all have a place in the Passion story.

Thirdly, the palms remind us of Christ's love. Despite what all these people did to Him, Jesus died for all of them. His love, His truth, His forgiveness, His grace are the foundations on which we can rely. Despite our failures, in Him we can have a new and strong life. The palms remind us of that as well.

CONCLUSION

Take the palms home today and keep them. They remind us of human fickleness both then and now, of our own sins and failures and of Christ's redeeming and victorious love which alone can make us whole and strong.

THE CHURCH CELEBRATES THE LITURGIES OF THIS Holy Week not only to remind us of sin but to assure each of us of Easter. AMEN.