

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

CONTEMPLATE THE TRUE FACE OF LOVE IN THE SUFFERING CHRIST



On this Palm Sunday, we commemorate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. In the Gospel, proclaimed at the very beginning of the procession, Jesus is referred to as "He who comes in the name of the Lord" to finally restore the kingship promised to David for his descendants. Jesus is thus truly the Messiah awaited by Israel, this humble, just, and victorious king, Who will restore the holy city of Jerusalem. In Him is the fulfilment of the messianic prophecy of Zechariah: ***"Shout for joy, daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King comes to you: just and victorious, humble, and riding on a young colt" (Zech 9:9).***

It is joyful and festive with the songs of acclamation that accompany Christ's entry into the holy city, His definitive triumph over death and sin during the Easter night is already announced. ***The hope of being saved and of being resurrected with Him to live in the heavenly Homeland of His divine life is thus placed before our eyes.***

Nevertheless, the atmosphere changes with the readings of the Mass, which highlight the conditions necessary for this triumph to take place. As Saint Bernard says: "If heavenly glory is presented in the procession, in the Mass is revealed the path we must take to possess it." This path, which we can contemplate in the very person of Christ, is that of abasement and humility, of filial obedience, of abandonment in the hands of the Father, of total self-giving out of love, even to the point of death on the Cross.

Yes, Jesus is truly the Messiah—the Suffering Servant, announced by the prophet Isaiah, who did not rebel, who did not turn away; for it is precisely there that our salvation is at stake. ***By humanly communing with the divine will of the Father, Jesus restores our human nature to a filial relationship with the Father, a filiation that had been precisely rejected in the very act of original sin. By choosing to enter into His Passion and live it to the end, He expresses His total abandonment into the hands of His Father. By the "yes" that He gives humanly at a time when the deliberation of every human being would be inclined to the utmost towards refusal, Jesus saves us by fulfilling in human nature the perfect filial existence.***

Recognize the face of Christ in our daily lives? Will we follow Him when this choice involves carrying the Cross? This Sunday's texts invite us to question our attachment to Christ. We acknowledge and acclaim Him as our King, our Savior, our Redeemer.

"Lord, grant us the grace, during this Holy Week, to be renewed in our attachment to You. Grant us the grace to know how to contemplate You and listen to You in Your Passion, to listen to You speak to our hearts, to listen to You say to us: 'You mean a lot to me.'"

My dear beloved parishioners let us enter this Holy Week with humility, gratitude, and a deep sense of conversion and new life with Our Lord and Savior.

***Very Rev. Fr. Lucien Eugene Pierre Ph.D., Pastor, VF
Dean of Northwest Broward of the Archdiocese Miami – April 13, 2025***