

April 13th, 2025

Palm Sunday

Lk 22:14-23:56 The Passion

For readings ... see [here](#).

At the wedding at Cana, Mary tells Jesus, "*They have no wine.*" (Jn 2:3) Jesus responds, "*Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come.*" (Jn 2:4) Jesus then changes the water into wine. He listened to the needs and responded with love and charity. Jesus did his Father's will there as he pre-figured pouring out his blood during his passion on the cross and during his scourging and as he carried his cross ... and all our sins.

At the start of today's mass, we heard how Jesus entered Jerusalem and he was greeted with much joy and celebration and the people proclaimed, "*Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.*" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "*Teacher, rebuke your disciples.*" *He said in reply, "I tell you, if they keep silent, the stones will cry out!"*" (Lk 38-40) Jesus didn't stop their celebration but embraced it ... they were hoping he would become their earthly king. He allowed for the celebration, knowing full well his hour was near and he was about to be tortured and killed.

Then, we just heard during the Gospel, the Passion narrative according to St. Luke.

We heard about Jesus' suffering just before his arrest in the garden ... as we read: "**He was in such agony and he prayed so fervently that his sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground.**" Lk 22:44 and as Jesus

prayed there in the garden: “*Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me; still, not my will but yours be done.*”” Lk 23:42

He didn’t want to “*drink that cup.*” But he did what needed to be done, to redeem us, to open the gates of heaven for us, to save us ... and also to show us how to live and love.

At another point in scripture (Mk 10:35-45, Mt 20:20-28), the apostles James and John seek special seating in heaven. Jesus asks them, “are you able to *drink the cup?*” ... the cup that Jesus will drink. They respond YES and Jesus says they will and as we know, they both suffered tremendously, especially after Jesus ascended into heaven.

Jesus shows us the way, and this is why the Passion is so important. He is showing us true love ... laying down His life, “*drinking the cup,*” that He was required to consume to save us ... to redeem the world.

Each one of us in our own lives have times when we will ask to have our suffering reduced or eliminated. We ask God to loosen our load, to please have someone else “*drink the cup*” ... or eliminate the cup altogether. We want a smooth road and an easy way out. But we must quickly respond as Jesus did .. not my will by thy will be done ... We do this each time we pray the Our Father.

We must take up our cross and follow Jesus. That’s the way, that’s true love, agape love. Sometimes, it will be joyful celebration and sometimes it will be sad and difficult, very difficult. But if we focus on` Jesus and His Church, we will experience a true, deep inner joy knowing that we are united with Him and doing His will.