

We Rise Up - Together

Scripture: Palm Sunday

Reflection: As we enter Holy Week this Sunday with Palm Sunday, we read the familiar passion narrative from the Gospels. In many Catholic communities, all the congregants will participate in reading aloud this story — because it’s a story of all of us, together.

In this Gospel reading, the people together urge Pilate to execute Jesus, saying: “Crucify him!” It’s a devastating reflection of the harm we can do when we collectively exclude and condemn our neighbours. It reflects how the existence of injustices like poverty, racism, mass incarceration, and the abuse of immigrants is a collective, societal failure. When we let exclusionary attitudes get the better of us, and cooperate with exclusion, structures of sin and injustice keep going.

But Easter is also a collective reality—something we experience in community—and an invitation to something new, for all of us. In Eastern Christianity, we have the image of the Resurrection depicted as not only Jesus springing from his tomb alone, but of leading others to God communally. We are raised up together.

Jesus promises that **the new life of resurrection is one of solidarity, justice, and peace**. It is a transformation of all the structures and systems that keep our communities from having what we need and deserve to thrive. Resurrection gives us a hope that says: *things can be different*. **God invites us to new life, not only at the “end of time” but also here on Earth, now!**

But we only move into the new life of the resurrection together. No matter our age, where we were born, where we live, or what we look like, we are raised up together. Together, we can create change, and join in building that new life of justice and peace—as we and our ancestors have done before in struggling for greater justice and freedom. **We can make a collective choice to step into the new life to which we are called.**

That collective choice starts with each of us, and a commitment. **Take Pope Francis’ message to heart** and join in building anew a world where all of us can thrive, together!



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