

Rev. Derek Fairman

Passion Sunday A

Today the focus is on the holy city, Jerusalem. Jerusalem was chosen by the Lord to be the holy city. It was the place where the Lord chose to dwell. In the Gospel at the beginning of Mass, we heard that the crowds went out to meet the Lord Jesus and welcome Him to His holy city. After His entry into Jerusalem, as Passover approached, we would expect that the holy city of Jerusalem was filled with visitors from all over. In the Gospel that we have heard, the crowd was persuaded by the authorities to put the Lord to death. Those who were in the crowd when the Lord entered the holy city were not necessarily the same people as those in the crowd during the Lord's trial. Anyway, as the Lord Jesus entered Jerusalem, He was met with praise. As Passover approached, there was tremendous resistance to Him.

In some ways, Jerusalem is a mirror for our souls. We have been chosen by God. We have been made temples of the Holy Spirit. Throughout our lives, there have been many things that we have taken into our souls. Some are good, and some are bad. The Lord comes into our lives and there is certainly a part of our souls that welcomes His coming. However, there is a part of our souls that provides resistance to His presence. There is a part of our souls that does not listen to His teachings. There is a part of our souls that is hardened and does not want to change.

Today, we ask the Lord to come into our hearts so that He can save us from whatever would resist His coming. As we enter this Holy Week, we ask the Lord to purify us, so that the bad habits and vices that have entered our souls be banished. If we are to enter the holiest week in the year, we must be ready to receive the Lord into our lives. Our prayer is that the Lord will prepare our hearts for the Lord to enter.