

**Palm Sunday 3-28-10 St. Luke's, EG 8 & 10 (to introduce the Passion)**

Never during the church year is there a Sunday more political than Palm Sunday!

Jesus is proclaimed a king and we wave palm branches to signal our welcome and extend the hospitality of the house and of our hearts to this Holy One whose very name means: "God saves"—Jesus, Jesse, Joshua!

And we sing our praise to signify our acknowledgement of that central fact of our lives: **All glory, laud and honor be to our redeemer king!**

The leaders of the day became **enraged** and plotted to get rid of him. Imagine! Insurrection among the people...doesn't sound very Episcopalian, except when Episcopalians, among others, stand up for social issues advocating in ways that rock the boat and threaten the status quo, like health care for everyone even if it costs the wealthy to benefit the poor; or like civil rights or women's rights in a former generation; or gay rights in the present generation.

What else was Jesus about, after all? The Gospel stories show he was always advocating for the marginalized, the foreigners, the woman taken in adultery, the Samaritan woman with no status in the society whatsoever.

So I guess we know where He'd stand on welcoming and befriending immigrants, foreigners and others on the edge.

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord:  
Hosanna in the highest!**

For this acclamation threatening the status quo of his society Jesus is crucified by the authorities and yet, from the Cross prays his human heart out:

**"Father forgive them for they know not what they do!"**

So, there's hope for us (Jesus, remember ME when you come into your kingdom) as this Cross becomes **our** ticket to salvation as well. So, let us not shy away from that Cross **but embrace it.**

Listen to the story and see your part in it.

**Do not shun your shadow**, the parts of all of us who hold back and are afraid, or who deny, or betray or are duplicitous, but trust in the Lord to enable you to grow, **by grace**, into the persons and society the King would usher in were we to offer **ourselves** as a living sacrifice.

A friend in Florida said in all innocence this past week as the Health Care bill was passed: “But will we all have enough?” and he living in his second home overflowing with material benefit. “Whatever could he be thinking?” I wondered quietly.

I remember vividly Senator Chafee, Sr. calling me one day from DC requesting Biblical references for helping him make the case in the Senate for rich people realizing their obligation to assist the poor and help to redistribute the wealth in our society. I was so proud to know a senator of his integrity, who looked to his faith to inform his politics.

Palm Sunday is a day for politics in church if ever there was one.

If all the authorities silenced us, **still the stones would shout**, even the stones of this old church:

- Jesus is King; let us have no idols,

even now, as we witness the story once again, first singing to his glory....