

## HOMILY

### WILLOW SUNDAY (PALM SUNDAY) APRIL 5, 2020

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

Glory be Forever!

Today we celebrate the Great & Holy Feast of Palm Sunday (Willow Sunday). Of course, we are doing so under unusual circumstances. It's very comforting for me to know that many of you will be watching our services on Sunday via live stream. Please know that I feel your presence and that we will soon be together in our church praying as one community.

Palm Sunday is a celebration of mixed emotion. Jesus has just raised Lazarus. He is coming into Jerusalem being hailed as a King and being treated as such. There is joy and exuberance but there is also underlying tension. The political and religious leaders of the people are being threatened by Jesus' popularity. So, on this same day, they begin their plot to destroy Him.

We experience something similar today. We feel the joy of Willow Sunday. We celebrate Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. We bless our palms and willows, but we still feel the uncertainty and tension of what's going on in the world around us. Palm Sunday is not so different for us as it was in Jesus' time 2,000 years ago.

In conclusion, know that Fr. Walter, Deacon Mark, Deacon Joseph, and myself miss you all very much. We celebrate today but we feel your absence greatly. Don't ever doubt that your parish and your clergy love you very much. Every time I'm in church I look to see the faces of those who are at home taking precaution. Be assured of our continued prayers, know that our Holy Week will be dedicated especially for you and all of your intentions and we ask all of you to keep the four of us in your daily prayers until we gather once again with great joy to celebrate the mysteries of Our Lord in our home parish of Saints Peter & Paul here in Ambridge.

Fr. Mike