

**Palm Sunday
April 13-14, 2019**

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Living Catholic in the 808: Triumphant Reception and Tragic Rejection

**Very Rev. Msgr. Gary L. Secor, V.G.
Rector, Cathedral Basilica of
Our Lady of Peace**

As we begin the holiest week of our Church's year, Jesus enters Jerusalem to shouts of praise and acclamation. He is acknowledged as King and palm branches are waved in worship. Five days later, many of those who praised him will severely persecute him and call for his death. The story of Christ's triumphant reception and then his tragic rejection has been told for almost 2000 years because it reminds us of how we can act in the same way.

It is easy to acclaim Christ as Lord when things seem to be going well or when the prevailing public opinion is supportive of such an acclamation. We are happy to welcome him and sing his praises. But when the tide of public opinion shifts, or when we recognize that supporting Christ might cost us dearly, we often change our tune. We condemn his presence in our lives or we run away from him.

His story invites us to see in it our story as well. When we speak a consoling word or do what is popularly acceptable, others sing our praises. But when we speak a challenging word or confront evil, we too will often be persecuted. We will be, at best, judged negatively and, at worst, condemned.

During this Holy Week, we are invited to journey with Jesus. His Passion challenges us to be passionate about his love even when it is difficult. His cross challenges us to be courageous. Even though we may be tempted to reject him or leave when things are deadly, we know that he will never leave us.

We invite us to join us for our Holy Week Services. "If we have died with Christ, we know that we shall live with him".