

## Lectio Palm Sunday 2021

Welcome to all of you joining us for this time of prayer, reflection and sharing. Today in Baltimore is a beautiful Spring day. Trees are budding and forsythia, star magnolias, and daffodils are in bloom. The temperature is 70 degrees. This day stirs up hope and promises of Resurrection.

But with Palm Sunday tomorrow, we enter the Great Week of the Church Year, Holy Week, and there are two distinct Gospel readings: one Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem which will be read during the blessing of the palms tomorrow, and the second, the Passion of Jesus according to Mark on which we will concentrate for our Lectio today. As we listen and see and share in deep communion, we pray:

Beloved God, standing this year in the shadow of untold human suffering, death, want, and loss; aware that the cross is lifted up in peoples and places and ways too many to count; conscious of your privileged, abiding presence in those persons demeaned, excluded, persecuted, and killed, we find a strange paradoxical comfort in contemplating the Passion of Jesus. Here we bring our hearts broken open with sorrow and fear, praying to see and know the Cross of Jesus as the complete rejection of the violence and hatred we see around us. Align our hearts, infuse our spirits, and purify our consciousness with the compassion of Christ Crucified who in total identification and limitless love goes all the way with those who suffer. We ask this in the name of this same Jesus Christ who died and was raised and is the Source of all our hope. Amen.