

**Today we begin with palms.**

**With cheers.**

**With a parade.**

**Jesus rides into Jerusalem and the crowd shouts Hosanna!**

**But the Church, in her brutal honesty, does something strange.**

**She makes us read the Passion today.**

**Because the same crowd that shouts Hosanna will soon shout  
Crucify him.**

**Those two crowds are not different crowds.**

**They are the same crowd.**

**And they are also us.**

**We welcome Christ when he enters our lives with glory. We  
praise him when faith feels good, when prayers are answered, when  
the road is smooth.**

**But when the Gospel begins to demand something of us,  
when forgiveness is hard, when sacrifice costs us, when the cross  
appears, our Hosanna can turn quiet very quickly.**

**Palm Sunday is not just about waving branches today.**

**Anyone can carry a palm for a moment.**

2 Palm Sunday

**But disciples carry a cross.**

**So today the Church puts a palm in our hands, but she also places the Passion in our ears.**

**Because the real question of Holy Week is this:**

**Will we only follow Jesus in the parade or will we follow him all the way to, and through, Calvary?**