



“Hosanna to the Son of David;  
blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord;  
Hosanna in the highest.”

MATTHEW 21:9

## From Jubilation to Desolation

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

**T**he adoring crowds, chanting “Hosanna to the Son of David” (Matthew 21:9), capture our attention on this Palm Sunday. We hear the crowds, and we rejoice with them. Sometimes, we forget that not everyone in the crowd is joyful. Some are challenged; some are threatened. For them, Jesus is not Good News; he is not the long-awaited one—he is something entirely different, and he must be silenced.

Our Sunday celebration begins with jubilant crowds and ends with a most cruel death. Those who were once joyful are now silent and dispersed. It appears that the authorities have once again triumphed. Hope is dashed. The promise remains unfulfilled.

Spiritually sit with desolation in the week that comes. Do not jump ahead to the triumphant end of the story. It is true that we are an Easter people, but we must also pay attention to the details of how evil often attempts to silence the good. It is important, as people of faith, to remind ourselves that even when all things seem to be lost, the Father has the last word. His will is accomplished. He is the Creator and the author of the story. We should always prepare ourselves to be surprised. To embrace light instead of darkness. And, even when there is death all around us, to know that there will be life—life in abundance for all. ●

### Reflect

***How am I at keeping in mind the resurrection when my world feels like Good Friday?***

# Dear Padre,

**How do the three sacred oils differ, and how do I dispose of them properly as a sacristan?**

Jesus Christ was anointed priest, prophet, and king. *Christ* means “Anointed One.” The sacred oils assist the members of the Church, who share in Christ’s priestly, prophetic, and royal mission. Catechumens are anointed with the oil of catechumens for God’s help to resist evil, reject sin, and adhere to a lifelong profession of faith as they prepare for baptism. The infirm and elderly are anointed with the oil of the sick to fight against the physical and spiritual debilitating effects of illness through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Chrism, the most important of the three, can only be consecrated by a bishop. It is used for baptism (along with the oil of catechumens), confirmation, the ordination of a priest or bishop, and the dedication of a church and altar.

A repository for the oils—often marked *Olea Sanctae* (“Holy Oils”)—is called an *ambry*. It is usually in a prominent church location near the baptismal font. Each year, when the oils are replaced, a priest, sacristan, or other person may absorb the old oil with cotton and burn it in a thurible or as part of the fire that begins the Easter Vigil. With special care, old oil can also be added to a large burning candle, like the sanctuary lamp. Reverence and safety are proper for whatever method of disposal is used. ●



**Fr. Byron J. Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
<b>MARCH 30</b>	<b>MARCH 31</b>	<b>APRIL 1</b>	<b>APRIL 2</b>	<b>APRIL 3</b>	<b>APRIL 4</b>	<b>APRIL 5</b>
<i>Monday of Holy Week</i>	<i>Tuesday of Holy Week</i>	<i>Wednesday of Holy Week</i>	<i>Thursday of Holy Week (Holy Thursday)</i>	<i>Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)</i>	<i>Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil)</i>	<i>Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord</i>
Is 42:1–7 Jn 12:1–11	Is 49:1–6 Jn 13:21–33, 36–38	Is 50:4–9a Mt 26:14–25	Chrism Mass: Is 61:1–3a, 6a, 8b–9 Rv 1:5–8 Lk 4:16–21 Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper: Ex 12:1–8, 11–14 1 Cor 11:23–26 Jn 13:1–15	Is 52:13–53:12 Heb 4:14–16; 5:7–9 Jn 18:1–19:42	Gn 1:1–2:2 or 1:1, 26–31a Gn 22:1–18 or 22:1–2, 9a, 10–13, 15–18 Ex 14:15–15:1 Is 54:5–14 Is 55:1–11 Bar 3:9–15, 32–4:4 Ez 36:16–17a, 18–28 Rom 6:3–11 Mt 28:1–10	Acts 10:34a, 37–43 Col 3:1–4 or 1 Cor 5:6b–8 Jn 20:1–9 or Mt 28:1–10

## A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

**Dear brothers and sisters, we too are invited to “prepare the Passover” of the Lord. Not only the liturgical one: that of our life too. Every gesture of willingness, every gratuitous act, every forgiveness given in advance, every effort patiently accepted, is a way to prepare a place where God can dwell. What does it mean for me today to “prepare”?**

GENERAL AUDIENCE,  
ROME, AUGUST 6, 2025

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.