



# Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

Cathedral of the Honolulu Diocese • Founded 1843 • National Historic Register

## Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

April 6, 2025

Beloved Pilgrims of Hope,

Greetings of peace, love, joy and hope!

### ***“Radiant Hope: A Journey Through Holy Week”***

This Sunday, known as Palm Sunday or Passion Sunday, marks the beginning of Holy Week. As we gather to bless palms, we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, where the profound mystery of our salvation unfolded. The palms symbolize our recognition of Jesus as the true King, the Messiah who has come to save us all.

The liturgy beautifully states, “Today, we gather together to herald with the entire Church the beginning of the celebration of our Lord's Paschal Mystery, which includes His Passion and Resurrection. For it was to accomplish this mystery that He entered His own city of Jerusalem. Therefore, with all faith and devotion, let us commemorate the Lord's entry into the city for our salvation, following in His footsteps, so that, by His grace, being partakers of the Cross, we also may share in His Resurrection and His life.”

As we reflect on these words, we come to understand and believe that Jesus offered His life for our salvation. He entered Jerusalem with boundless love and mercy, enduring unimaginable suffering and death. Stripped, whipped, crowned with thorns, carrying the heavy burden of the cross, nailed to it, pierced with a lance, and laid in the tomb—these were the depths of His sacrifice to bring us back to our senses. Through His pain, He showed us the way to live according to God's will, not the ways of the world.

In this Jubilee Year of Hope, let us embrace the call to journey with the Lord during these sacred days of Holy Week. May our lives be filled with the goodness and grace that God continually bestows upon us. Let us renew our commitment to be true disciples of Christ, stewards of the Gospel, and faithful sons and daughters of God.

With all the celebrations of the coming days, specifically on the Easter Triduum, I invite you all to participate in our liturgies not only as an obligation but more so to encounter and experience Jesus' depth of love for all of us. In doing so, we may come to our senses about what it means to love truly, which can transform our lives to be faithful children of God, committed disciples of Christ, and instruments of renewal through the Holy Spirit.

May the hope and joy of the Resurrection fill our hearts and inspire us to live out our faith with renewed vigor and love.

Your fellow pilgrim in hope,

Fr. Pascual