



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

March 29, 2026

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, joy, and hope!

“When the World Groans, Christ Walks With Us”

We start this Sunday with the Solemn Celebrations of Holy Week. We begin our liturgy with the blessing of palms at Mass to remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. People waved palms as Jesus entered the city, yet that same Jerusalem would soon become the place of His suffering and death. We listen to the Gospel of the Lord's Passion during the Liturgy of the Word. That's why we call this day Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion.

From Thursday to Sunday, we observe the Easter Triduum, the pinnacle of our Christian and Catholic faith. These three days of deep prayer, sacrifice, and celebration, Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection, constitute one profound mystery, the Paschal Triduum. Its highlight is the Easter Vigil, where darkness is replaced by the light of Christ.

As we observe our Holy Week disciplines, fasting, abstinence, and prayer, it is vital that we stay close to the Lord. This is a sacred time to treasure the immeasurable love of Jesus, who suffered and died for our salvation. To cherish this love involves examining our hearts: our faith, our choices, and our relationships with God and others. How do we live out the Gospel values of compassion, truth, justice, and peace in our daily lives? How do we embody our identity as disciples of the Lord?

This year, these questions feel especially urgent. Here in Hawai'i, many of our brothers and sisters are suffering from devastating floods that have destroyed homes, displaced families, and shaken our sense of security. Across the world, the escalating conflict involving Iran has brought fear, loss, and uncertainty to countless innocent people. Day by day, we hear stories of destruction rather than life, of violence rather than peace.

Why is this happening? Many hearts have forgotten the One who gave everything to bring us new life. When the suffering and death of Jesus no longer influence our choices, the values of the world take over the values of the Gospel. Our broken world longs for healing, and that healing can only begin when we return to Jesus Christ, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Holy Week calls us to walk with Him, not just in prayer, but in solidarity with those who suffer. As Jesus carried His cross, we are encouraged to carry one another. Let us pray for those affected by the floods in our islands, for those living in fear amid war, and for all who feel abandoned or overwhelmed. May our compassion serve as a sign of Christ's presence in a wounded world.

May this Holy Week be meaningful and life-giving. May we truly appreciate the cost of what Jesus has done for us so that we may live righteously and walk in His way, with renewed peace, love, joy, and hope.

Fr. Lazarus and I encourage everyone to participate in these solemn celebrations. We know that work and responsibilities can make it difficult, but offering our time to the Lord is always worth it. These days give us a sacred pause from our routines and allow us to be with the Lord, with our families, and with our Cathedral Ohana.

Your Friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual