

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily  
Sunday, April 13, 2025  
Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion  
Cycle C

A priest, visiting a prison, asked an inmate serving life for a crime he didn't commit, "How did you survive the injustice?" The man answered, "I stayed silent. Not because I was weak but because I didn't want hatred to win in me."

There are moments when we want to defend ourselves, strike back, or shout, "It's not fair!" But there is a different kind of strength: the strength of silent love. Jesus was mocked and beaten, yet he stayed silent. "He opened not his mouth." (Isaiah 53:7) His silence was not weakness – it was love. He did not come to win arguments, but to win hearts. On the Cross, Jesus says: "*I endure this... for you.*"

Imagine that. The Lord of all creation, who could call down legions of angels, **chose silence**. Not because he had nothing to say, but because love sometimes speaks loudest in stillness. In that silence, Jesus absorbed hatred – and gave back only mercy. He took in cruelty – and responded with compassion. He bore injustice – and said, "Father, forgive them."

But now the challenging question for us is this: Can we respond with love and forgiveness when falsely accused or deeply hurt? When a loved one betrays our trust? When people judge us unfairly? It is so tempting to lash out,

to get even, to speak in anger. But the Suffering Servant invites us: “Walk with me. Let love be your strength.”

Pope Francis once said: “Silence, patience, meekness – these are the weapons of the one who follows Christ.” It is not about letting others trample us. It is about choosing mercy over revenge. It is about trusting that God sees, God knows, and God will redeem.