

Blessing of Palms ... response to the Gospel

**“Hosanna to you, Son of David, King of the ages,
hosanna to you, victor over death and the powers of darkness.”**

**WE ADORE YOU, O CHRIST, AND WE PRAISE YOU,
BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD.**

**“Jesus, you went up to Jerusalem to suffer and to enter into your glory,
lead your Church into the paschal feast of heaven.”**

**“Jesus, You made your cross the tree of life,
grant its fruit to those reborn in baptism.”**

**“Savior of humankind, you came to save sinners,
bring into your kingdom all who have faith, hope, and love.”**

**Homily – I would like to share two brief reflections regarding the Passion ... one
comes from Tuesday – the other from Wednesday night.**

**A. While driving home from Superior on Tuesday, just as I was crossing the 172
bridge, the last page of Dickens’s novel was being read:**

**Charles Dickens’s “The Tale of Two Cities” takes place during the French
Revolution - 1789-1799 ... London and Paris**

- **at the end of the novel, a law clerk by the name of Sydney Carton exchanges places with the prisoner Charles Darnay ... thereby saving Charles lives while he himself was executed by the guillotine.**
- **Dickens puts on the lips of Sydney Carton – about to be executed these words:**
- **“It is a far, far better thing that I do than I have ever done;**
- **it is a far better rest that I go to, than I have ever known.”**
- **Jesus: gave this life for us ... no better thing can be done / go greater peace can be had**

**B. Wednesday evening ... our fourth and five graders here at Res school
re-enacted the Stations of the Cross**

- **it was prayerful, reverent, and moving experience**
- **Jesus condemned to death ... falling three times ... meeting his mother and the women of Jerusalem ... the nailing, the death, the entombment**
- **after each station: “We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.”**
- **And all the way through the piano was playing beneath each scene:**
- **“Were you there when they crucified my Lord, nailed him to the tree, laid**
- **Him in the tomb?” Oh, Oh sometimes it causes me to tremble ...”**

