



My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We have entered Holy Week. This is the holiest week of the year, as we remember, in a special way, the key events of our redemption – Jesus' death and resurrection.

In the weirdness of my thought, I was thinking about how today is called "Palm Sunday." My thoughts went directly from the palm fronds that we bless and carry, to the palm of the hand. This then reminded me of the little book *Remember the Truth at Hand*. You may remember me preaching on this last fall. These are the key truths of our faith, and we remember them in a special way this week.

The pinky finger is the smallest, weakest finger. It reminds us that we are weak, broken, sinful, *that we need a Savior!* And God Himself comes to us as that Savior.

This is the second finger – the ring finger: God weds Himself to humanity. This is the mystery we celebrate at Christmas – God taking on our humanity. This mystery is broader than Christmas, though. The fact that Jesus shared our full humanity, not just at birth, connects the whole of His life – and death – to us.

The middle finger is the tallest, and reminds us that Jesus was raised up on the Cross. This, of course, is the mystery we celebrate this week in particular. Jesus – Almighty God – not only took on our humanity, wedding humanity to God, He went into the very depths of our brokenness, taking on the consequences of sin: death. But this tallest of the fingers reminds us also that He was not just raised on the Cross, but was raised to new life in the Resurrection. This is so important! As powerful as it would be that God would unite Himself to us, even in our death, He didn't leave it there: He overcame death itself by the Resurrection.

We often use our index finger to point out to a specific person, and then signal them to come to us. This "pointer finger" reminds us that while Jesus died for all of humanity, He did not die for the "masses," but for each of us. He calls us by name. He loves me, you. He beckons each of us to Himself, to His Heart.

Finally, the thumb. In baseball, the thumb is used by the umpire to say, "Yer OUT!" And so, the thumb reminds us that we need to respond to Jesus' call. All that He did for us would not be enough to save us if we refused to respond to Him. That response means we have to change our lives, saying, "Yer OUT!" to our sins and vices.

So as we celebrate Palm Sunday, we can look at our hands to remind us of what this week is about: how God saw we were in desperate need of a Savior, and coming Himself, saved us by His death and resurrection, calling us into an intimate, personal relationship with Him to which we must respond.

May this holiest of weeks draw you closer to the God who loves you so desperately, passionately, intimately, tenderly.