

April 19, 2019

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-8

John 18:1-19 - 19:42

Living as we do within the Social Media age, news of any sort is immediately transmitted for instant digestion by a global audience. Thus, recent airline disasters have been immediately posted to the internet, showing not only accident-scene footage of the crashes but also live scenes of those at the destination airport awaiting the arrival of their family and friends. These images show faces streaked with tears, frozen in shock, bodies bent in wretched grief and people collapsing to the floor in wails and sobs. The sudden reality of someone beloved being yanked from our lives through death, no matter its eventuality in our human existence, is traumatically painful. A hole in OUR WORLD suddenly exists, a hole that was once filled by the person newly deceased. Our hearts are flooded with images, stories, memories, sounds, laughter and experiences shared...now known but to ourselves. As PEOPLE OF FAITH, on Good Friday, we recall the trauma for those who had accepted Jesus into their lives 2000+ years ago. The injustice, of a man - who fed the hungry, healed the broken, restored the dead to life and brought hope to the despondent - being tortured, humiliated, nailed to a cross of wood and hoisted in the air for all to mock...is it any wonder the first disciples of Jesus hid themselves in secret rooms throughout Jerusalem in the immediate hours following his death! Through the eyes of faith...we don't know what to say or do... knowing that Jesus was both FULLY HUMAN, and FULLY GOD...we are overwhelmed that he would allow such a thing to occur to him. Which is precisely why Jesus embraced the journey to Golgotha and the Cross... Jesus punctuated his words with his actions....I AM WITH YOU...in your pain, in your suffering, in your confusion, in your doubt, in your anger, in your loss....I AM WITH YOU....your crosses are my crosses...I will not abandon you...I will die with you and you will rise with me. In much the same way as daily life in Jerusalem continued unabated while Jesus was being crucified, so today, for many in our society, today is just another day, an opportunity to plan the weekend egg hunt or the start of a vacation. For we who gather however, to hear the Passion narrative, to touch the cross, to remember our own moments of loss and desperation, today is a sacred collection of hours by which we attempt to make sense of our world. In OUR world...sudden losses, deaths or shocking news still hurts and wounds....EVEN THOUGH WE KNOW THE FULL STORY OF THE RESURRECTION TO COME. Knowing that something ENDS WELL does not mean it hurts any less...and so today, we share the pain of Jesus, just as he shares ours...and together we move toward resurrection...holding to whatever hope the cross of the crucified Christ can offer us.

Thank you for setting aside this evening to gather with our Santa Clara community to commemorate the Passion and death of Jesus. You are reminded that tomorrow, Holy Saturday, the Triduum concludes at 7pm (there is NO 5pm Mass and no confessions) and the Easter Sunday Mass schedule is the usual 8am, 10am and 12noon. As you ponder the transformative moments within your own lives, your own Passion experiences, please know that you are loved. FKB