

GOOD FRIDAY [ABC]

Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42

Two thousand years ago a trial took place that resulted in the death of a condemned man.

Why is it that, even today, it will not go away? Why will it not be forgotten?

For sure, there have been countless show trials through the ages. Our own time is marked by unspeakable horrific crimes of concentration camps, gulags, ethnic killings and blasphemous invocations of God's Holy Name to murder.

And yet, it is the crying injustice of the ancient trial at the Passover in Jerusalem two thousand years prior which still stirs us most.

At the center of *human* history, stands the Cross of Christ.

Now no human comprehension can grasp perfectly the mystery of the Cross of Christ. What we can do, however, is to look to the Cross and to see it as it stands unlike all others.

- *Look* to the Cross and see God's marvelous love poured out "for us."
- *Look* to the Cross and to see the inexhaustible love of God making possible "our [eternal] salvation."
- *Look* to the Cross and see the Crucified One who stands in our place [out of pure and perfect love for us].

If we dare ask, God may permit us to help the Lord Jesus bear a tiny particle of the suffering of His Cross.

- Jesus Himself says that it is possible to help Him bear His Cross when he challenges us to take up our cross daily.
- The same is said by Saint Paul who wondrously explains that he suffers that portion of the Cross that Christ reserved for him and for other Christians.

When life is hard and seemingly hopeless it is not the end of the line. Beyond the abyss there waits for us something that at present we cannot see nor can we imagine to be true; namely, a light in which all the world's pain is treasured and cherished in the ever-open heart of God.

Look to the Cross.

We can be confident that our darkness – however foreboding, however suffocating, however debilitating - can be taken upon into the great darkness of redemption through which the light of Easter dawns.

Look and see the Cross.

When our lot seems too burdensome, when the pains become unbearable, when the fate we are asked to accept seems utterly and absolutely meaningless, it is then that we have come very close to the Anointed One nailed on the Cross at Golgotha, for He already has undergone this for us [and has done so in unimaginable intensity].

When failure, disappointment and despondency close in around us, it is not for us to somehow calm ourselves and work it all out. No!

Look to the Cross!

At the heart of the Christian faith [and all of human history] stands the mystery of the Cross of Christ. And before the Cross we properly fall down in worship, adoring the inexhaustible love of God poured out “for us and for our salvation.”