

## Good Friday B2024

No one can listen to the passion of our Lord Jesus and remains indifferent. How would one be unmoved when a loved one is involved in a drama? For sure, any human being can die when his time of pilgrimage on earth is done. Those who die in an especial way like in line of duty for the defense of the country are called heroes and their death a supreme sacrifice.

But, what would be said for the one who, beyond duty and voluntarily, offered selflessly his life for the love of his fellow human beings? The death of our Lord Jesus on the cross raises no doubt and calls into no question the fundamental truth for which he lost his life. Our Lord accepted to die on the cross, to fulfil the mission given him by the Father to save the world.

St John says, "God has so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." (Jn 3: 16). We bow our heads in gratitude to our Lord and we kneel before his majesty in sign of our homage to he who did not hesitate "to give his life as an offering for sin" (Is 53:10) of the world.

The passion of our Lord is the passion of love. The suffering of our Lord is the suffering of a heart that loved so deeply that it gave everything until one's proper life. The passion and death of our Lord are the proof of his love for us and for the whole world.

Our Lord saw certainly his violent death coming on the horizon. He knew that his fate would not be different from that of the prophets who came before him. As they were persecuted, he too would be persecuted. Many among the Jews contested his teaching and others considered the signs he performed as a work of Satan. They wanted to put him to death and live them alone. But, our Lord did not fear for his own life. He assumed everything with faithfulness and obedience in order to fulfill the mission the Father had entrusted to him.

Isaiah says that, "Though he was harshly treated, he submitted and opened not his mouth; like a lamb led to the slaughter or a sheep before the shearers; he was silent and opened not his mouth". And yet, "it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured... He was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins; upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed".

The Passion and the death of our Lord are the decisive moments of his life where he chose to side with sinners in order to save them. He accepted suffering in his body and the death on the cross in order to give us life anew. His death is an expression of his love for us, a self-gift and a self-immolation for our sake. By so doing, our Lord becomes "the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him".

As we meditate on the Passion of our Lord, let us repent of our sins and return to God. Let us not miss God's grace through the sacrament of confession. May the Passion of our Lord bring us to repentance and conversion of heart so that we come to the celebration of Easter purified and cleansed from our sins! May the Lord help us to grow in faith by dedicating our lives for the good of our fellows, as he did, and by continuing to love his creation and our world! Amen.

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



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