

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord A2023

My friends, we have just listened to the story of the Passion of our Lord Jesus. Perhaps, like me, you are deeply touched by what our Lord went through: from the adulation of the crowd that once praised him with “Alleluias”, then, turned against him with the cry “crucify him” to the flight of his best friends, the disciples, when things became hot.

St Paul says that thought he was God, our Lord emptied himself, taking the form of a slave; he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on the cross. The suffering of our Lord is a deliberate act of submission to the will of the Father. Jesus accepted voluntarily suffering and death to redeem the human race.

In the Passion of our Lord, God suffers for us, but he also suffers with us. As God, our Lord endured sufferings for us and, as man, he identified himself with us so that in our own sufferings we might not be alone and feel abandoned. Anytime we suffer and are confronted with difficulties, our Lord accompanies us. He knows what it means to be human.

The Passion of our Lord is the fulfillment of God’s plan. When the Father asked him to offer his life in ransom for many, he did not rebel against his will. Instead, he gave his back to those who beat him, his cheek to those who plucked his beard, and did not shield his face from buffets and spitting.

The violence our Lord underwent and accepted in his Passion is not a useless violence. His cross is an act of supreme love. By accepting to die on the cross for our salvation, our Lord gives us a proof of his love for us. When someone loves, he gives to the loved one everything he has and is.

That is what our Lord has done in his passion as he offered his life for our sake and for our salvation. The suffering of our Lord is a healing suffering that brings about salvation to the world. By his wounds, we are all healed and reconciled with the Father and with one another.

Since our Lord gives us in his Passion an example of total love, any time we too accept suffering for the sake of those we love, we repeat in our own body the Passion of our Lord. As the innocent Jesus was unjustly condemned, anytime we make people suffer unjustly, we prolong the Passion of our Lord. That is why the Passion of our Lord challenges us to love sincerely, to be good people, honest and righteous. The passion of our Lord invites us to break the chain of violence, verbal and in deeds, especially when that violence is exercised against children, innocent people and immigrants.

The Passion of our Lord compels us to forgive as he did on the cross, especially when we have been unjustly hurt and humiliated. May God bless you as you suffer for the love of your loved ones! May you find in the Passion of our Lord Hope and consolation in your own suffering!

Isaiah 50: 4-7; Philippians 2: 8-9; Matthew 26: 14-27: 66



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