

## Good Friday A2023

The narrative of the Passion of our Lord Jesus is very touching and poignant. No one can listen to what our Lord went through and remain insensitive. No one can meditate the Passion of our Lord without seeing how the power of darkness and the forces of evil transform good into bad, bounty into wickedness, love into hatred and peace into persecution.

Our Lord has been good and loving to everybody. He showed mercy and compassion to anyone of those who came to him. He was moved by and sympathetic to those who were in need of healing and comfort. And yet, what he received in turn was rejection and death.

He accepted contempt, mockery and betrayal for our sake and for our salvation. He assumed his mission with courage, abnegation and obedience to the will of the Father. He knew there was no other way to save the human race than the way of the cross.

For sure, the teaching of our Lord attracted a lot of people; but his actions and deeds also made enemies. 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.

Those who felt challenged in their way of believing in God could not tolerate his teaching and his action. They wanted him to die and to leave them alone. But our Lord did not fear for his life. He assumed everything with courage, faithfulness and obedience to fulfill the mission entrusted to him by the Father.

The prophet Isaiah had prophesized in strong words the whole fate of our Lord: “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”. (...) “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 death of our Lord are the decisive moments of his life for our salvation. Our Lord has accepted suffering in his body and the death on the cross in order to save us. 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 has become “the source of salvation for all who obey him”.

The Passion of our Lord reminds us there is no Easter without Good Friday. It was for the love of mankind and for our salvation that our Lord endured suffering in his body. Let us walk this Holy Week with just one objective: to make amend and repent of our sins so that we come to the celebration of Easter purified and cleansed of any stain of sin.

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



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