

Palm/Passion Sunday Message

By the Rev. Frances Savill

Sunday April 5, 2020

In our remembrance of Jesus' passion, we see again the heights and depths and lengths of his love for us.

In the garden we heard Jesus' prayer of anguish for another path.

But his overarching prayer is for God the Father's will to be done.

And with that prayer Jesus walks the road of suffering for us.

He became the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

He identified himself with the least, the last, the lost.

According to Matthew's gospel, when Jesus was arrested and his disciples pulled out a sword to try to protect him, Jesus said;

"Don't you realize that I could ask my Father for thousands of angels to protect us, and he would send them instantly? But if I did, how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that describe what is happening now?"

Jesus could have saved himself, but he chose instead to identify himself with us, and with the least, that he might save us all.

He was executed outside the city at the Place of the Skull, where the most god-forsaken die to show us that he will be with us even there.

And on Easter Sunday when the tomb is empty, after this kind of death, and this kind of resurrection we see the truth that there is no place, no situation, no person that cannot be redeemed.

In the empty tomb we have God's promise that God will not forget any of us, not the least to the greatest, not the popular or the rejected, not the poor or the rich, not the respected or the outcast – not any of us.

In Jesus, the lamb led silently to the slaughter and the stone the builders rejected, God is joined to us fully and completely so that we know God is present with us everywhere, and one day we will be with him.

Isaiah described him as one who was despised and rejected, a man of sorrows and bitterest grief.

It was our grief he bore, our sorrows that weighed him down.

And by his wounds we are healed.

Thanks be to God.

Let us pray:

O God we come before you in awe at the love of Jesus, shown to us. In every situation remind us that you are with us, and you are acquainted with all our sorrows, fears and struggles. May we walk with this day with you, that we might know your healing love, and your power to redeem and bring life. We pray in the strong name of Jesus our Lord. Amen