

Palm Sunday 2021 – Yr. B
“Were You There When They Crucified My Lord”

Introduction

Recap:

5th Sunday: The renewal of the covenant.

1. Moving from saving a people to saving individuals. Personal relationship with Christ.
2. Made possible through Jesus’ death and resurrection.
3. God has redeemed the world through suffering and death. Jesus’ suffering atones for our sins. His resurrection overcomes the finality of death such that death becomes the doorway to Eternal Life with God.
4. As members of the Body of Christ, we suffer too as God continues to redeem the world. Our suffering (both voluntary through sacrifice and involuntary through suffering) works to our good. When joined with Jesus’ suffering during the sacrifice of the Mass as a prayer on behalf of others, it has redemptive effect. In the economy of salvation, there is no pain without purpose or suffering without solace.
5. All of this was the intellectual preparation for what we are called to experience today and on Good Friday – the full emotional experience of Jesus’ sacrifice for us. We are called to empathize with Christ – to become one with Christ.

Discussion

In the Gospel Reading we heard of our Lord’s Passion. Why Did God Do This? Love.

Who God Is – His Nature

Son's Love for the Father and his love for Humanity results in his loving "yes" to the Father's will – the Father's plan for the recreation of the world. "Behold Mother, I make all things new." And, his love for you personally. He did this for you.

Application to Us – 4 Responses (2 with Christ; 2 against him)

There with Mary and the apostle John

Frightened by the consequences of committing to God like the other apostles who were hiding; waiting for Pentecost.

There with the Jeering Crowd

Somewhere Else – Just Don't Care

Our words and actions reveal which group we are in. Mt. 25.

Let's Put Ourselves at the Foot of the Cross Today.

Walk through the crucifixion. (Wrists, lungs, feet, back, head)

"Were you there, when they crucified my Lord? Were you"

Let us strive to give ourselves as a living sacrifice to Jesus during communion today. To voluntarily accept our sufferings and sorrows, and when we come to communion, to offer them to God as a prayer for our redemption and the redemption of others. Let us become one with Jesus in love; and with Jesus, lovingly submit to the Father's will for our lives.

[And then, wait for the resurrection! Wait for the Power of the Holy Spirit – the explosion of Joy! Wait for a life that has meaning and purpose. Wait for the Great Adventure!]

Conclusion

Pray with me: Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.
Amen.