

2020 April 10

Good Friday, Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Readings:

First: Isaiah 52.13-53.12, "He was despised and rejected by me." (53.3a)

Psalm 31, "Into your hand I commit my spirit." (5a)

Second: Hebrew 4.14-16, 5.7-9, "He learned obedience through what he suffered." (5.8b)

Gospel: John 18.1-19.42, "Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?" (18.11b)

Don't think he doesn't know

Everyone at the scene of crucifixion and all who came that way thought that the story of Jesus was over, that he already became just history, maybe, with the exception of his mother. We know that it was only the beginning of a victory march, enlisting hundreds of thousands every year in the march, and the beginning of a new history, *his story*.

Hardly anyone before Jesus ever thought of becoming and being what or who Jesus was. As St. Paul narrates to the Philippine believers, *Jesus did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited as a prized possession, but emptied himself to the extent of becoming man, a slave, a status too low compared to the position of being God, and became obedient to the point of death.* (Philippians 2.6-8) He became man not necessarily to know who man was or what man's predicament was. Since he was there in the creation of man and throughout man's story, human condition was known to Jesus. He came down in order that humans may be raised up to the level of divinity and that humans may recognize and realize that this Man-God knows the human condition, what every human being is going through in life.

He came down also in order to make the humans understand that they are partners with God in the act of creation, which is a laborious and continuing act for God in which he is constantly involved. The creation story in the bible tells that God worked six days, and also gives the clear notion that in that act God sees to it that everything is perfect. It is in this act of continuing creation that man is invited to be a partner. Along with God humans also are in labor, and that is the meaning of human condition now, which is also the result of what humans decide to do or not to do. Both have consequences.

In every moment of man's action and inaction this God is present, this God is laboring and is in pain with humans. Hence we cannot think that God doesn't see or hear or know. In and through this labor and pain new creations come into being and God and humans are together engaged in the making of the New Creation. Life, in and through its pains and pleasures, its labors and miseries, is in the process of making the new creation, the new heaven and new earth. Our passion celebration should remind us that Jesus is with us and we are with him! It should remind us that *the tongue of the teacher is given to us also to sustain the weary with a word'*. (Isaiah 50.4)

Fr. George

Easter Vigil celebration at 6.00 p.m. Saturday and will be live on face book,
[facebook.com/stpaulspei](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulspei)

Also available on our website, www.stpaulsparish.ca

Fr. George

10th April 2020.