

As Jesus drew near Jerusalem, he saw the city and wept over it, saying, “If this day you only knew what makes for peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes” (Luke 19:41-42).

Jesus has many names and titles. One of them is the Prince of Peace. The Prophet Isaiah foretells of the coming of the Messiah to the Jewish people in exile. “For a child is born to us, a son is given to us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace” (Isa 9:5) The Prince of Peace conquers sin and darkness in Jerusalem with his death on the cross and his resurrection.

At Mass before Holy Communion we invoke the Prince of Peace. “Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.”

We are reminded of the story of Abraham and Isaac. The Lord tested the faith of Abraham asking him to take his son and sacrifice him. They climbed a mountain and Isaac asked: “Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?” “My son,” Abraham answered, “God will provide the sheep for the burnt offering” (Gen 22:7-8). Isaac was spared, and the Lord God sent his Son, Jesus, the Prince of Peace, to be the Sacrificial Lamb:

- In the Old Testament, the Prophet Isaiah draws this connection for us: “We had all gone astray like sheep, all following our own way; But the LORD laid upon him the guilt of us all. Though harshly treated, he submitted and did not open his mouth; Like a lamb led to slaughter or a sheep silent before shearers, he did not open his mouth” (53:6-7).
- In the Gospel of John, John the Baptist tells us: “The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world... I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God” (1:29, 33).
- The Beloved disciple also tells us, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life” (John 3:16).
- In the Book of Revelation, Jesus is the victorious apocalyptic lamb who destroys evil in the world. “Worthy are you to receive the scroll and break open its seals, for you were slain and with your Blood you purchased for God those from every tribe and tongue, people and nation. You made them a kingdom and priests for our God, and they will reign on earth” (5:9-10).
- At the Lord’s Supper, Jesus gathered his disciples together in the upper room in Jerusalem for a Passover Meal. They remembered the Exodus event when the blood of the paschal lamb was placed on the door posts of the homes of all the Hebrews so that the Angel of Death would spare them and that they might be set free from slavery in Egypt. Jesus becomes the new Paschal Lamb. “Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins” (Mt 26:27-28).
- The sacrifice of Abraham on the mountain comes full circle when Jesus sheds his blood on Calvary on Good Friday. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit”; and when he had said this he breathed his last. The centurion who witnessed what had happened glorified God and said, “This man was innocent beyond doubt” (Luke 23:46-47). Jesus is the spotless Lamb of God innocent beyond doubt.

2000 years ago as Jesus drew near Jerusalem, he saw the city and wept over it, saying, “If this day you only knew what makes for peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes.” Jesus continues to weep and to remain hidden in a world that is not at peace. He laid down his life for us that we might know true and lasting peace.

“Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it” (Mt 16:24-25). What makes for peace is a readiness to follow Jesus even to giving up one’s life for him.