

GOOD FRIDAY 2019

Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him Who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof. But only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

These words of believers echo day in and day out acclaiming Jesus Christ as the Son of God, crucified for our sins and made food to heal our souls as a lasting banquet and sacrifice. They come from words spoken by Saint John the Baptist and the centurion whose son was ill who had faith not only in Jesus, but in themselves. They knew what they said was based in truth.

“I find no guilt in Him...Look, I am bringing Him out to you, so that you may know that I find no guilt in Him.” “Behold the Man!” “I find no guilt in Him.” “Behold your King!” Then he handed Him over to be crucified.

These words and sentence are from Pontius Pilate. Pilate also asks later in the Passion account of Saint John, “What is truth?” This stands in stark contrast to the words and passion of faithful disciples over the centuries.

Behold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the salvation of the world. Come let us adore.

These are words we will chant shortly during this liturgy as we begin the second part of today’s service, the Adoration of the Holy Cross. During the veneration of the Cross, we will have the opportunity to kiss, touch, or reverence the Cross as we wish. It is one more opportunity, a special one reserved for this Good Friday, to honor what Jesus Christ has done for us through His death on the Cross.

Each of these reflections on words spoken are opportunities that provide for us historical records of people acknowledging Jesus for who He is or who they thought Him to be is relevant to us as we seek meaning today.

The Lamb of God, first had meaning to the Chosen People during the Exodus from Egypt when they were saved from the slaughter of the first-born sons. Now, the only Son of God, the first-born from all eternity is slaughtered for our sins, crucified. Without guilt, the King of the Jews becomes King of Heaven and Earth.

Because of our sins, we are not worthy that our Lord should come to us. Because our Lord loves us, because He took our sins to the Cross and shed His blood, He offers us His Body and Blood to heal our souls, to strengthen us and bring us to eternal life. We will find the truth of this on the third day. When Pontius Pilate asked, “What is truth?”, he only would need to wait until the third day if he really wanted to know.

In the third part of today’s liturgy, we will echo the words with which I began this homily.

Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him Who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof. But only say the word and my soul shall be healed. This is the Body and Blood, soul and divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ who hung upon the Cross and died for our sins. Receive Him today in the Eucharist. Receive His grace today in your soul. Let Him take your sins away and then acclaim Him as the Lamb of God, the King of Heaven and Earth, the Savior of the World, and the only one who we can believe when He says, "I am the way and the truth and the life."