

## **Homily for Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)**

*10 April 2020*

*Sacred Heart – St. Louis Parish*

Reading 1 – Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalm 31 – **Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.**

Reading 2 – Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:5-9

Gospel – John 18:1 – 19:42 *The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ*

### **Homily for Friday of the Passion of the Lord**

My dear brothers and sisters in the faith, today we come to the Friday that is called GOOD, even though the good we are talking about is a death. Not, just any death, but a crucifixion, along with two criminals. Death by crucifixion is not a pleasant way to die. It is a very shameful way to die. Because, to be put to death by crucifixion during Jesus's time, one must commit a serious crime, what we might even call a heinous crime today. Now, the men on either side of Jesus are there because they were thieves. We don't know much about them, other than one joined in with the crowd in insulting Jesus, while the other scolded that thief. The "good" thief knew that they both deserved to be there, and he knew that Jesus did not. Both of these men undoubtedly had heard about Jesus and what he was doing and who the people were saying that He was. Jesus was on that cross for one reason alone and that is for love of each and every person on this earth. Now, I know there are a times that I am sure that each of us can make a list of people that we would like to think is beyond God's grace and mercy. We are not perfect. Thankfully, our God does not hold that against us. He calls us to follow him and to trust him. How do we know that we can trust God? Because he sent his Son to save us by his

death on the cross. Jesus, an innocent man, dies so that each of us can have the opportunity to have eternal life. To have our sins washed away. This day is good because this man died, so that another may live, so that many others may live. Those others are you and me. Each one of us that has chosen to accept that invitation given to us, to come and follow Jesus, will receive the life that Jesus won for us on the cross.

At the beginning of the passion, we hear Jesus pose a question to the soldiers and the guards that were coming. Jesus knew what was going to happen. He asks them; "Whom are you looking for?" This same question can and is presented to us as well. Whom are you looking for? Maybe the better question for the day might be, what are you looking for?

We spend our whole lives looking and looking and searching. That is our whole journey and it begins from the moment we enter the world at birth. As infants we are looking for something. Just watch a newborn baby, as they wiggle around, moving their heads around. They are looking for food and they are looking for love. This continues throughout our entire lives. We are always looking and searching, for food, shelter, knowledge, love. There are many things in our world that can fill these needs, for a time, but the one thing that truly will fill us is God and the love that He gives to us. Not, even your own spouse or children can totally fill the void that is in your life. Now, many of these items that can ease our hungers for a bit also come from God through all that he provides, but so often we lose sight of that.

These past forty days of Lent have given us the opportunity to really look and see where our fullness really comes from, because as we have experienced during this pandemic, so many of the things that we turn to in our world for satisfaction have been taken away from us. We have not been able to gather and see many of our loved ones. We have had a much more difficult time in finding the foods that we may like or enjoy, some have lost their jobs, we have not been able to go to the gym and so on. Often these things are our escape and we don't always use them as we should. Through our being asked to stay home and to limit our travels and activities, the end of the world has not come. We are still living each day because the one thing that has not been taken away is God. No, we cannot gather to celebrate Mass together, but Mass and the sacraments are still taking place. God is still filling the world with his love, in each and every one of our homes and families, the Domestic Church

As we celebrate this Friday that is called Good Friday, let us thank our God for all the blessings that he gives to us. Let us thank our God for the blood and water that poured out of the side of his Son, this blood and water that nourishes us and washes away our sins. Let us thank him for the continued grace to grow in our faith and the time that he has given us to spend with our families and to grow the domestic church. Let us thank him for never leaving us and for the eternal life that is promised to us from Jesus on the Cross and may his divine mercy continue to pour out on us so that we can continue to grow and thrive in the days and weeks ahead, especially as we enter the glorious Easter season.