

Homily – Good Friday

April 19, 2019

With the eyes of faith, we stand at the foot of the Cross with Jesus' mother and the beloved disciple. Today's passion narrative gives us valuable insights into what we observe.

Jesus is the Lamb of God. He is condemned to death at noon when the Passover lambs are being slaughtered. After Jesus' death the soldiers do not break his legs because Scripture says that the people of God are not to break any of the bones of the Passover lamb. He is the Suffering Servant who goes silently to his death despite an unjust accusation, like a lamb led to slaughter. Jesus is the triumphant Lamb of the Book of Revelation, definitively conquering the forces of evil.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd, who lays down his life for his flock. The Good Shepherd takes good care of his flock, guiding them along safe paths that lead to good pastures. He protects them from harm and gathers those who stray away. He is willing to die so that his flock may be saved.

Jesus is the royal Messiah. The cross is his throne. His crown is one of thorns. His dialogue with Pontius Pilate reveals that Jesus'

kingdom is not of this world. But he is a Servant King! The Son of God has humbly emptied himself and taken the form of a servant, a slave, serving others and turning no one away.

Jesus is also the new Adam, and his mother is the new Eve. The first man and woman lived in the garden of Eden until they said “No” to God’s command and sinned. Then they were exiled from the garden. Jesus’ agony begins in a garden, and the tomb in which he is laid is also in a garden! Jesus has said “Yes” to God, even accepting a horrible death on the cross. And when the dust has settled, the new Man is still in a garden! He learned to say “Yes” to God from his mother. When Mary was told by the angel that she was going to have a son through the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit, she was puzzled because she was not yet married. However, when she heard that God had chosen her to be the mother of his beloved Son, she said Yes – at great cost to herself.

We stand at the foot of the Cross today with the sorrowful Mother and thank God for his enduring love for us. Dear Lady, our Mother, teach us to say “Yes” to God’s will as you and your Son did.