

Good Friday

April 2, 2021

“Who would believe what we have heard?” These words about the Suffering Servant of the Lord remind us of the great mystery of Jesus’ innocent suffering by which we are saved. As St. Paul has said, Jesus crucified is “a stumbling block” to many and “folly” to others. Worldly wisdom cannot comprehend a crucified Savior. Nevertheless, through Jesus’ passion, death, and resurrection light breaks through the darkness of the world, forgiveness overcomes sin and death, suffering takes on new meaning when seen through the eyes of faith.

The Cross is not the end of the story of salvation. Jesus has definitively overcome the forces of evil. These forces are still powerfully at work today. But we know the truth: God will ultimately set everything right. God’s kingdom is **already** among us – wherever there is justice and peace, mercy and compassion, harmony and unity, love and care for creation -- even though the kingdom is clearly **not yet** complete. Each of us needs to help build the kingdom of God every day by the way we live and by our actions.

As we stand before the Cross this afternoon, we bring with us all of the suffering of our sisters and brothers everywhere, especially those in our midst. We reflect on the truth of the gospel – the truth of God’s enduring love for us.

Pilate cynically asks “What is truth?” This is a common question today. We are bombarded and manipulated by disinformation and lies in the public forum and on social media. The many serious problems we face in our divided community and nation can only be solved by dialogue. This requires mutual respect and trust. This, in turn, is possible only if we both seek out and speak the truth!

Today, let us stand in silence and awe before the crucified Lord with Mary, our Sorrowful Mother, and experience anew the **truth** of the gospel message of God’s wondrous, unconditional, and enduring love!