

Salvation Came

Palm Sunday 2018

Salvation came into the world as a babe born of unknown, insignificant, poor people. Salvation came in the midst of everyday life, unnoticed by most, honored by three kings and a handful of shepherds. Salvation was feared and hunted by the imperial powers of the time. Salvation came through one man, Jesus Christ, who gathered together a small band of would-be disciples who did not always recognize that they were in the presence of the Savior.

Salvation came riding triumphant into Jerusalem on the back of an ass, symbolizing his great fidelity with the poor and his message of God's love and mercy for all. Salvation was fully realized when Jesus was nailed to the cross, submitting to the powers of the time, obedient to his Father's will.

Today we begin the holiest week in the Christian church. Jesus rides into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey, heralded by the crowds that supported him. By week's end, we will celebrate and remember his Last Supper, the institution of the Holy Eucharist. We will remember and reenact him washing the feet of the disciples. We will remember that we, too, must wash the feet of those we encounter each day.

On Good Friday we will give homage to Christ as we venerate the cross of our salvation. We will remember the suffering and death that was Jesus' gift to us.

As we journey from the darkness of death into the newness of life, we will gather on Holy Saturday to remember that salvation came into the world in a very different and divine way. In the light of the holy fire of Easter, we will light and then follow into the darkened church the Light of Christ. We will listen to the story of salvation from the beginning of Genesis to the Resurrection of Christ. And we will remember all what God has done for us in the name of Jesus.

I invite every one of you to immerse yourself into the celebration of the great Triduum, the three holiest days of our Christian year. Come to have your feet washed and spend time with Jesus after Holy Thursday Mass. Come to hear the Passion and venerate the cross on Good Friday. Plan to attend the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night so that we might share in this great mystery that we proclaim. Come to Easter Sunday and recognize this gift we celebrate in the three day on-going liturgy that begins on Holy Thursday and ends on Easter Sunday. Celebrate the salvation that came to all of us! This is a great and powerful gift. Come! There is much to remember, celebrate and proclaim. Salvation came to us!

Happy Holy Week!

Sue Schettler