

*Our Lady of Lourdes*

Good Friday

April 2, 2010

Readings:

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9

John 18:1-19:42

Fr. Bob

We are here tonight, because in some way, we are always seeking and trying to understand the love of God for us. We don't come to mock his kingdom. Instead, we want to be part of it. We are not here, to join in the crowds who condemned him. We come instead, to show our love for our savior. Not to condemn, but rather to affirm that even in death, He is our real path to life. We come here, because of our need to hope in something greater than ourselves that just might conquer even death. We are not bystanders to what we've just heard. We are immersed in the actions of that day.

The good news today is fear, lies, and denials were not the last words in the life of Jesus. And because that's true, they are not the last words in our lives. No matter what we've done, nothing can separate us from God's love. No matter what particular crosses we carried with us into church today, we believe that God's commitment to us was such that he even went to suffering and death to reveal his saving love.

If our feelings are fearful, then we should allow Christ to surround us with his peace, just as he handed over his spirit to the Father. If we accuse ourselves of lies and falsehoods, we should allow Christ's dying love for us, to convert our hearts and change us. If we deny Christ, like Peter, through our actions or our words, we should make a decision today, to be as faithful to him, as he is to us in all that he endured.

If we allow Christ's peace, if we allow him to touch our hearts, if we strive with all that we have to remain faithful, something will happen. Even in the midst of carrying our own crosses, we can and will feel the weight begin to lighten. Some think it strange that we refer to tonight as Good Friday. But this is the day that our God shows us, the magnitude of his love and devotion for his people. Again, we are not just bystanders to what happened. We are immersed in it. And because of that our lives are different from many others. We live with hope, and we live with sure knowledge of the love that our God has for us. A love that is undying. A love, that instead, moves us from death, to something else much greater, if we are willing to wait, and to stay with him a little longer.