

Thoughts on the Daily Word

Holy Week Friday 18th April. Good Friday. Readings: Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm: 30; Hebrews 4:14-16,5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42.

On Good Friday we hear both the terrible suffering of an ordinary peasant, like so many in those cruel times, and we hear the glory of someone who willingly lays down his life and actually controls the event. This is why we hear of the Suffering Servant and the glory of the Redeemer in John's Passion. Faced with the immensity of human suffering and cruelty across the world we can despair of any change. Yet, the Jesus of John says that there is a purpose and meaning in our life and death. Precisely because it comes from a humble peasant, a poor worker, it reveals what God is up to in bringing that thing we call 'salvation' to the world. Making choices and decisions are marks of the free person, no longer bound by sin and slavery. This work of Jesus completes the Exodus story. It is not just tacked on the end to explain it. It fulfils what the poor of the world had been hoping for since the beginning. So today is not a sad day but a day of victory. John brings this out so powerfully, the glory that really belongs to humankind.