

Good Friday Homily: April 7th, 2023

During our Midweek Lenten Series, we took a look at some of the good Kings of Judah as presented in the Book of Chronicles. David was the benchmark by which all the kings who came after him were judged. As we saw, while David was the “man after God’s own heart”, he was far from perfect. He was a sinner who did some truly horrible things. Yet because our Lord is a gracious and merciful God, He moved David to confess and repent of his sins, and the LORD forgave them. David’s repentant heart is the reason why the LORD called him a “man after God’s own heart”. In that heart he held fast to the love and forgiveness that can only come from God Himself

Each of those kings that followed were just as human as you and I. When they turned away in faith from God, and even when they didn’t, they still struggled with sin. But we also saw how our God was always ready to forgive the repentant heart, and called out to them to turn back to Him and receive His abundant mercy. Tonight, that call goes out to you and I

Our Worship Service on Good Friday is the most solemn service of the Church year. Tonight, we follow our Lord and Savior through His trial, His suffering, and His agonizing death. Here we see just how awful our sin is to God, as we watch His holy wrath poured out on His only Son. We see Jesus’ suffering and hear His cries of agony. We also hear the taunting and cruel words from passersby, those exact people for whom Jesus was giving His life for. Here we see what our own sinfulness brought upon our perfect and innocent Savior.

As you witness His suffering and death this evening, may you be convicted of the awfulness of our sins in the eyes of our God. May you be moved to tearful repentance for those sins you know of as well as all those you’ve committed that you are not conscious of. May you experience some of the spiritual darkness that Christ experienced as His disciples abandoned Him, and as even the Father’s presence left Him alone to die on the cross. May you experience some of the agony those disciples felt as they watched their Lord suffer and die.

But may you also remember that Christ suffered all this willingly out of the greatest love for you. May the hope of the Resurrection remain firmly in your sight as the end goal of Christ’s Passion, as well as your own Resurrection on the Last Day. May you wonder and marvel at the love in the heart of the King of Kings as He laid down His life so that you might be welcomed into His eternal kingdom through all He suffered for you. May your witness of Jesus’ suffering and death, as painful as it is now, increase your wonder, your joy, your hope, and your faith when we gather again to celebrate this Easter Morning. Amen.