

Obedient to the Point of Death

Isaiah 50:4-7

Psalms 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24

Philippians 2:6-11

Mark 14:1-15:47 or 15:1-39

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Every week, Christ the eternal Word speaks from the pages of scripture addressing all who are “weary” with a word meant to “rouse” them (Isaiah 5:4). Part of the mystery we celebrate today is the fact that the divine Word came to walk among us. Christ did that to be better known, which in scripture means to share intimacy with us and to profoundly rouse us. Ours is a hands-on God, who got his hands dirty from the very beginning fashioning man out of the clay of the ground. Jesus did the same when he walked the dusty roads of Galilee and healed the deaf and lame. Rousing takes effort and commitment, so it requires deep caring. It can be risky, too, as anyone who has roused someone from deep sleep has likely discovered. People are startled by light when they’ve slept in darkness and they react with fear or anger—or both.

The humility of a God willing to take on and embrace the limits of humanity and to learn and live obedience, is astounding. That humility elevated Jesus’ name above every other name and won for us our salvation. But it also brought Jesus to Calvary. Peter denied him—denied his privileged intimacy with Jesus! We, too, can claim or deny him. But either way, he continues to reign from throne of the cross from which he continues to rouse the world.



“Because of this, God greatly exalted him / and bestowed on him the name / which is above every name” (Philippians 2:9).

SHARING FAITH

- ◆ Who are the “weary” in your life that need to hear the rousing word of God? When has God’s word healed your weariness and roused you to Gospel joy?
- ◆ Jesus was betrayed by one of his own. How have you experienced betrayal? What helped your healing?
- ◆ Sometimes following the will of God leaves us, like Jesus, standing alone, or even abandoned by friends. Have you ever taken a stance that made you unpopular? What was your motivation?

LIVING THE LITURGY

- ◆ God’s self-emptying and becoming human is the foundational mystery of Christianity. We can imitate that divine humility in our own lives. For one whole day, avoid ever talking about yourself. At the end of the day, reflect and pray about the experience.
- ◆ The Suffering Servant boasts of persevering through persecution and trusting in God’s deliverance. Many suffer in the world with little hope of deliverance. Spend time this week reading about an area where people are suffering unjustly and think of how, through prayer or in some other way, you might help them.
- ◆ Observe this Holy Week at home by simplifying meals and curtailing unnecessary activities in favor of more family prayer time. Obtain age-appropriate books or videos that tell the story of Jesus’ Last Supper, Passion, death, and Resurrection. Participate as much as possible in the Holy Week prayer of your parish.