

Good Friday Homily: *The Power of the Cross*: Isaiah 52:13–53:12; Psalm 31; Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9; John 18:1–19:42

Today, we gather in silence before the greatest mystery of love ever revealed to the world: **the Cross of Jesus Christ**. Good Friday is a solemn day. It is a day of sorrow, yes—but it is also a day of profound hope. Today, we do not simply remember the death of Jesus; we stand at the foot of His Cross and discover **its power**.

At first glance, the Cross appears to be a sign of weakness, defeat, pain, and humiliation. Jesus is betrayed by Judas, denied by Peter, condemned by Pilate, mocked by soldiers, abandoned by many, and nailed to a tree like a criminal. Yet, in the eyes of faith, the Cross is not defeat—it is **victory**. It is not the end—it is the beginning of salvation. The Cross is where God’s love shines most powerfully.

The prophet Isaiah, in today’s first reading, gives us the image of the **Suffering Servant**. “He was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins.” Jesus takes upon Himself the burden of our sin, our guilt, our pain, and our brokenness. He suffers not because He is powerless, but because **He loves us completely**. That is the power of the Cross: **love that is willing to suffer for the beloved**.

In the Passion according to John, we see Jesus walking knowingly and willingly toward Calvary. He is not dragged helplessly to death. He gives Himself freely. Even in agony, Jesus remains full of mercy. From the Cross He forgives. From the Cross He provides for His mother. From the Cross He completes the mission the Father entrusted to Him. And finally He says, “**It is finished.**” These are not the words of a defeated man. These are the words of a Savior who has accomplished the work of redemption.

The power of the Cross is not only something we admire—it is something we must allow to touch our own lives. The Cross asks us a serious question: **What in me still needs to die so that love may live?** Perhaps it is pride. Perhaps it is anger. Perhaps it is unforgiveness, selfishness, jealousy, or indifference.

Good Friday invites us to look honestly at ourselves. The Cross is like a mirror. It reveals how often we turn away from love, how often we wound others by our words and actions. But the Cross does not condemn us; it **calls us back**. It opens the door to mercy. Jesus did not die to shame us. He died to save us.

The Letter to the Hebrews tells us that we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize with our weakness. Jesus understands suffering from the inside. He knows betrayal. He knows loneliness. He knows fear. He knows pain. So if today your heart is heavy, if you carry grief, sickness, disappointment, or silent tears—bring them to the Cross. Christ does not stand far away from your suffering. He enters it. He carries it. And He gives it meaning.

That is another power of the Cross: **it transforms suffering**. Suffering without Christ can crush us. But suffering united with Christ can sanctify us. When we place our pain into His wounded hands, it is no longer meaningless. It becomes prayer. It becomes offering. It becomes grace.

As we come forward today to venerate the Cross, let us not do so as a mere ritual. Let us come with faith. Let us place at the feet of Jesus our sins, our wounds, our fears, and our burdens. And let us ask for the grace to live the power of the Cross every day—through forgiveness, sacrifice, compassion, and faithful love.

Brothers and sisters, the Cross is not only the sign of Christ's suffering. It is the sign of **our salvation, our hope, and our victory**. So today, let us not be afraid of the Cross. Let us embrace it. For in the Cross is love. In the Cross is mercy. In the Cross is life. **Amen.**