

Homily for Palm Sunday – March 16, 2008

Although it is at the heart of our faith tradition,
the story of the suffering and death of Jesus
is recounted in its entirety only twice a year, in the same week,
on Palm Sunday and Good Friday.

Though we hear this account infrequently,
its scenes and characters are vivid in the imagination of many.
If you're like me, there are particular words and phrases
that have embedded themselves in your memory and your heart,
each one evoking images, emotions and prayer.

Do the following not echo at a deep place within you?

Thirty pieces of silver...
One of you will betray me... Surely it is not I, Lord?
The man I shall kiss is the one...
Take and eat: this is my body... Drink, all of you: this is my blood...
You will deny me three times...
You could not keep watch with me for one hour?
The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak...
If this cup cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done...
All who take the sword will perish by the sword...
I do not know the man! And immediately a cock crowed...
Peter went out and wept, bitterly...
Barabbas - or Jesus called Christ?
He deserves to die!
Let him be crucified!
They spat upon him mocked him, stripped him,
and led him off to crucify him...
My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Truly, this was the Son of God!

We enter the Week we call Holy
when Christians around the world pause
to remember and to celebrate the death and resurrection
of Jesus called Christ.

May the words of his suffering and death
refresh our faith in his love poured out for us...
May we faithfully gather throughout this week
as we recall again and pray over the events
that brought us salvation...
May the words embedded in our hearts
bring us to the peace and joy of Easter.

-ConcordPastor