

Good Friday 2021  
Homily – Saint Joseph Parish  
Father Craig Looney  
*Hymn 344*



It was never about him...it was always about us!

### **He became a human being, like us...**

Jesus is the Word of God who has been with God from the very beginning. He is made of the same God stuff as the Father. Why did Jesus, the Son of God, become a human being, like us? Why would God, the Son of God, be the obedient son to Mary and Joseph? Because God's love for us is so deep, so broad, so high, it surpasses every direction of human boundaries. God's love for us cannot be fully explained...it can only be experienced.

### **He was baptized, for us...**

Jesus didn't need to get baptized. God's Son doesn't need to be saved...we do! God's Son didn't need to reorder his life...we need to reorder our lives. Jesus in his full humanity submitted to baptism by Water and the Holy Spirit...setting the pattern for our own baptisms by Water and the Holy Spirit. His baptism prepared him for his work...his mission. Our baptisms prepare us for our work...our missions.

### **He got hungry and thirsty, for us...**

Jesus went out into the desert to fast and pray. He got hungry and thirsty. Does God get hungry and thirsty? Jesus did. It was a problem he could have solved. But, Jesus in his full humanity allowed himself to experience all the hunger and thirst we do. Our Lenten fasts are the way we can share in his hunger and thirst.

### **He was tested, for us...**

Jesus was alone in the desert. We satisfy our hunger and thirst when we eat a meal and don't give it a second thought. When we fast and pray the thought of food can be a distraction. Satan tried to distract Jesus by challenging his to prove he was God by

turning stone in bread. When that didn't work...he tried to get Jesus to jump from the Temple roof...after all Psalm 91 says God will send his angels to protect him. Then Satan had the audacity to ask Jesus to worship him. Jesus told him to go away. Even though Jesus was hungry and thirsty, he didn't give into Satan's lies and tricks. God sees through lies and cannot be tricked. He allowed himself to go through all of the temptations we go through. Our Lenten journey to the cross should help us see through Satan's lies and tricks too.

### **He prayed and taught, for us...**

Jesus prayed with and for the people he met. He prays with and for us. He spent his earthly life teaching and healing...words were not enough...he always took action when someone asked for his help. God the Son of God takes action...it is his nature. He never refused to help anyone who asked for his help. He broke boundaries. He reached out to the marginalized and disenfranchised and the outcasts of society. He reaches out to us...he never turns his back on us.

### **He was betrayed, for us...**

Jesus had friends. He had close friends. They were with him at the Last Supper, the night before he died. We were with him last night too. He invites us to be his friends. But one of his friends was greedy. He had evil in his heart. He betrayed Jesus with a kiss. How often do we betray Jesus...perhaps without even realizing what we are doing? Have we betrayed our friends?

### **He was laughed at, for us...**

Jesus let himself be tortured and spit upon. He let himself be whipped until he bled. Wicked men put a purple robe on him. Purple is the color of royalty...the color kings wear. But Jesus is not the kind of king they want. Is he the kind of King we want? The soldiers, the crowd, made fun of him. They made him carry his own instrument of death...and when it got too much for God's Son to bear...conscripted Simon from Cyrene to help. Did Simon know whose cross he

helped carry? Are we willing to do the same...will we be brave like Simon?

### **He died, for us...**

Jesus was nailed to a tree. Crucifixion was the method the Romans used to put State criminals to death. Yes, Jesus was a State criminal. Crucifixions were slow and painful. They were gruesome and held in the most visible and public location. Many times the person being executed was hung on the cross naked. For a Jew...for Jesus...this was the ultimate act of humiliation. For the crowd watching Jesus die...this was the ultimate form of entertainment. There is nothing even remotely funny about capital punishment. There is nothing even remotely funny about Good Friday. For us...there is no entertainment in being here today. And where are his close friends...hiding...they didn't want to watch Jesus die. Only his mother and the women and John were there. We don't want to watch...we don't want to be here...but we can't run away and hide.

### **He rose from the grave, for us...**

Jesus didn't stay dead. His enemies thought they had gotten rid of him forever. His mother and his friends were overwhelmed with grief...not knowing what would happen next. Three days later he rose from the grave...death was defeated once and for all time. And he would later go back to heaven...and send the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen and cheer us...to help us understand we are never alone...Jesus is with us until he comes again.

### **It was never about him...**

We gather every year on what was the darkest day in the history of mankind...but not a day without hope. We do this to remind ourselves God loves us so much he gave his only Son, Jesus, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life. Good Friday...is ultimately about life...not death...and Good Friday...

It was never about him...it was always about us!

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