

Good Friday, 2009  
St. John's Passion

### **Meditation 1**

*John 18:1-11*

Judas brings soldiers.

The soldiers bring torches, lanterns and weapons.

Peter brings his sword.

Jesus brings only His word.

“I am,” says Jesus, the same voice that spoke to Moses in the burning bush.

“Let my people go,” says Jesus, the same voice that spoke to Pharaoh, king of Egypt.

“Put your sword away; you shall not kill,” says Jesus, the same voice that spoke with Moses on Sinai.

Jesus speaks, and it happens.

Neither Judas, nor the soldiers, nor Peter is running the show. It's Jesus' Passion. He is in control from start to finish.

### **Meditation 2**

*John 18:12-27*

Outside, Peter, the chief disciple, is denying His Lord. Inside, Caiaphas, the chief priest is striking His Lord.

Which hurt Jesus more? The stinging blows from the Lord's representative, or the stinging words spoken by His dear friend, “I don't know the man?”

### **Meditation 3**

*John 18:28-40*

Jesus must be gotten rid of. And only the Romans can do this legally. Only Pilate can sentence Jesus to death. So Jesus passes from the priests to Pilate.

Now Pilate did not feel threatened by this King of the Jews. Pilate felt threatened by the crowd.

He did not fear Jesus, he feared losing control.

Whom do you fear: the crowd or your King?

#### **Meditation 4**

*John 19:1-16a*

What makes a king?

A crown? Royal robes? Servants bowing low?

The soldiers looked at Jesus and did not see a king. So they gave these things to him to mock him.

The people did not want this sort of a king. The king crowned with thorns. The people preferred Caesar. Caesar was a pagan, Caesar was a Gentile but at least he was a proper king.

Will you have this Jesus, crowned with thorns and enthroned on the cross, as your king?

#### **Meditation 5**

*John 19:16b-27*

What pain.

The pain of carrying the cross

The pain of the nails

The pain of being stripped naked before the crowd

The pain of watching your son die

The pain of seeing the sorrow in your mother's eye.

Jesus bore all of this pain for you.

What bring you pain?

Jesus has suffered it all.

## **Meditation 6**

*John 19:28-37*

It is finished. Your salvation is complete. No more pain, no more suffering for Jesus.

Yet how does salvation come to you?

Through the blood and the water flowing from Jesus' side.

Born again in Holy Baptism through the water that flows from Jesus' side.

Cleansed by the blood flowing from Jesus' side in the Lord's Supper.

The blood of Christ touches your lips, and He says once more, "It is finished."

Your sins are finished. Gone. Dead.

Nothing more for you to do. Nothing more for you to add. Your salvation is complete.

## **Meditation 7**

*John 19:38-42*

The Sabbath is at hand. Time to rest. Jesus has His Sabbath rest in the tomb.

In six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and all that is in them.

On the seventh day He rested.

On the sixth day of this Holy Week, the Lord redeems the world, dying for His creation.

On the seventh day He rests.

And now we wait for the eighth day.