

Wednesday of Holy Week “A Word That Will Rouse Us”

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Great readings. I think most priests today are drawn more to the first reading from Isaiah. “The Lord GOD has given me a well-trained tongue, that I might know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them.” That is what pastors are hoping to do in the coming days. We want to know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them, give them consolation, and give them access to God’s grace. This Holy Week is rough on all of us because we really want to worship together. We don’t want to be socially distant. And, you can imagine how rough this year is going to be for us priests too. So, we need to pray for each other that we all find that word that comes forth from the mouth of God that will rouse us and give us hope.

The Gospel reading does a wonderful job at setting the stage for the Triduum that begins tomorrow evening. Judas has made his deal to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. He even pretends to be cordial around Jesus after he makes that deal. Jesus sees right through him. Jesus sees clearly what goes on in every human heart. Jesus sees what is going on in our hearts too. Clearly in our Gospel reading, Jesus is less interested right now in being for us a teacher. Jesus is even more less interested in becoming an intriguing historical figure. The stage is set for Jesus to complete what he is really interested in becoming for us. Jesus desires to be for us a savior.

We can talk about all the ways the human race needs the salvation that can only be given to us by God. However, maybe the best thing you and I can do today is prayerfully discern what it is exactly we need salvation from? Is it Covid 19? Is it our emotional response to it? Is it a broken relationship? Is it fear of the future? Is it the brokenness of our spirit that comes from sin? What is it that we need salvation from this Holy Week? Can we give whatever that is a name?

Now, what is that word from the mouth of God that can rouse us and give us hope? St. John gives us a glimpse to that answer at the very beginning of his Gospel. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. You see, the Word that comes forth from the mouth of God is Jesus. Or, as Archbishop Sartain like to say, when God answers our prayers by giving us the name of his Son, he has answered all our prayers, because when God gave us Jesus, he gave us his everything. My friends, the stage is set now for the Holy Triduum. Whatever is broken inside of us now seeks the Word of God, and that Word of God is Jesus, who will demonstrate his love by going to hell and back for us.