

Reflection on the Passion and Death of Jesus Christ

We can read in the Gospel of Luke that after the Last Supper, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane at the Mount of Olives and prayed, *"Father, if it is your will, take this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done."* This was an intense moment between the Son and His Father. Jesus prayed so intensely to His Father because He knew the sacrifice that was set before Him. This sacrifice, starting from the agony in the garden, betrayal of His friends until His death on Calvary, was never devoid of physical suffering and emotional pain because He is fully human like us yet he endured and embraced it whole-heartedly.

We are once again in the Season of Lent. This season brings us again to the Passion and Death of our Lord. We will be confronted once again to the bloody and brutal scene of his immolation. His Passion and Death is the greatest act that only He could supply to please the Father. This act was finally accomplished on the Cross. Jesus` Passion and Death is not for Himself but for mankind. There is no sacrificial lamb that can be offered as a perfect sacrifice on the altar of the cross to wash away our sins but Jesus` own blood. Through the Lamb of God, man`s communion with God was restored pouring out His own blood for many for the forgiveness of sins. He paid for our freedom with the price of his own blood—His suffering and death.

As we journey in the Season of Lent, let us contemplate the Holy Week recalling to mind what our Lord endured for our salvation. Let us remind ourselves that the redemption worked by Christ on the Cross requires personal recognition of our own responsibilities. The fruits and merits of Christ`s Passion and Death need to be applied in our life by means of practice of faith, reception of the sacraments, conversion of

heart, and accepting all the hardships in life. Meditating on His Passion and Death should strengthen us to be more faithful, should move us to reconcile with God through the reception of the sacrament of Confession, and keep us on the path of doing the will of the Father. Christ achieved a great redeeming value for us by enduring and embracing wholeheartedly all that He had to face. Jesus crucified on the cross is the greatest love story that is ever told—Jesus' self-sacrifice for humanity. Therefore, it is only when we identify with the sufferings of Christ that we can merit and achieve a great redeeming value during our own sufferings and pains and fervently say, *"... not my will but yours be done."*

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