

## Good Friday. Year A. 7<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

Today we celebrate Good Friday of the Lord's Passion. The celebration should take place at about 3:00 pm, but for pastoral reasons, it's shifted to this time.

On this day, the Lord Jesus willingly and gladly laid down His life on the altar of the Cross for the salvation of humanity. This points to the fact that His mission was not "to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45)

Prophet Isaiah said in our first reading, "Yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured, while we thought of him as stricken, as one smitten by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins; upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed."

A story was told of a chicken: one day, she went into the bush with her chicks, but unfortunately, a fire broke out, and where the chicken and her chicks were gathered was surrounded by fire. What the chicks did was to run under the wings of their mother to take cover. The chicken did well to gather her chicks under her to protect them from the fire. But the fire was still coming. The closer it came, the more she struggled to protect them and to make sure that they were all under her. The fire came upon her and burnt her to death. But under her were her chicks. After the fire, as people passed by, they saw the chicken partly burnt and squatting on the ground. When she was raised up, they discovered life chicks under her. She covered them with her life. Of course, she had the wings to fly and be safe, but she died for them because she loved them.

This is exactly what Jesus has done for us. At a time when our sin made of naked and open to death, he came and covered us with his blood that we may have life and have it in abundance. By his death, he conquered our death and by his resurrection he gave us life.

Suffering may appear to be something bad but when we endure in a redemptive suffering, it becomes source of our joy and salvation. It was through the shedding of blood that Jesus performed an eternal and everlasting covenant for the salvation of the world. On the cross he said, 'it is finished', in Greek **Tetelestai**. It means paid in full. Usually if tax collectors finish their recording of tax, they write on the book, *tetelestai*, meaning it was "paid in full". There is nothing remaining. You did not need to meet the debtor any longer. So, when Jesus said *tetelestai*. He means that the sins we own through our first parents have been forgiven. We do not need to do anything, what we need is to go about living our lives in Thanksgiving and praise that it's actually finished.

Peace,

Fr. Jingbe Simon