

## Jesus Remember Me

Every Good Friday the Church proclaims in her Good Friday's Liturgy of the Word: The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. On Palm Sunday each year the Passion that is read is one from the Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark and Luke. This Palm Sunday it was the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

The final words of Jesus at his death by crucifixion reflects the story of each Gospel. In Mark the words are of the human abandoned Jesus who has recourse to the Father: "My God my God, why have you forsaken me?" Then heralded the centurion: "Truly this man was the Son of God!" In Luke Jesus breathing his last cries out, "Father into your hands I commend my spirit." These are the words of one whose trust is in God alone. As Pilate had proclaimed Jesus' innocence before his crucifixion, the centurion proclaims his innocence at his death: "This man was innocent beyond doubt." Matthew picks up again Mark's stark theme of humanities abandonment of Jesus with his words, "My God my God, why have you forsaken me?" The Roman guards proclaim, "Truly this man was the Son of God."

John moves us beyond abandonment and the death of the innocent Jesus. Jesus as the sovereign and faithful Son of God proclaims, "It is finished." This Good Friday there is much of a sense of abandonment about us. We have a deep recognition of the suffering of the innocent. Even more there is a want for COVID-19 to be finished. As Mark and Matthew's Jesus experienced the abandonment of his apostles and disciples and Luke's Jesus was declared innocent, John's Jesus is the Word made flesh who laid down his life. It wasn't taken from him. In his act of laying down his life, salvation comes to the world and eternal life to all who believe in the Name of God's only begotten Son. Let our Good Friday cry be that of Luke's crucified criminal, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Fr. John