

From the Pastor's Printer

It all started so long ago. It was the sin of our first parents – the unbridgeable breach in humanity's relationship with God which no human being could fill. When all seemed lost for the eternal future, God was there with hope. Not encouragement that we could fix things on our own, because we couldn't, but rather that God would bring about a healing far greater than we deserved. From a descendant of Eve would come One who would be attacked by evil at the heel, but this descendent would strike at the head of Evil. (Genesis 3, 15)

In the past three days we have been remembering the fulfillment of the loving promise of God to bridge the chasm our sin has wrought, and we have celebrated the victory of the descendent of Eve who not only struck, but cut off the "head" of Evil. It was not an act that simply required one clean sweep of the sword and a minor bite to the ankle. Rather it was in a battle stupendous that Good and evil, Life and death, Salvation and damnation, God and Satan fought to bring a definitive end to the power of the other. The latter was armed with lies, hatred, violence, self-interest, injustice, murder, clubs, whips,

swords, and a cross of torture; the former armed with truth, love, and life eternal, the word of salvation, and a heart to beat its last beat so that the chasm might be filled in, so God and humanity may be one again. When Evil thought it had slain the author of life who lay in a cold dark grave, the Spirit of God raised him to life, conquering the ultimate evils of sin and death, once and for all.

This is why we have gathered these three days. Etched into our hearts when we received the Victor's life as our own in baptism, is a sense of loving gratitude to Him who loved us first, and whose Son, while we were still sinners, died for us. Etched into our minds in the infusion of baptismal grace is the realization that we possess again a unity with God that is beyond any other unity a person in this world can experience. And it all is ours if we accept by word and action, desire and will, the Life of the Crucified and Risen One as the pattern of our own life.

The victory is assured; the gift has been given. The only thing left is to walk the journey from death to life in our daily living, and to walk it in the purity of sincerity and truth.

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer your thankful praises!

A Lamb the sheep redeems;

Christ, who only is sinless, reconciles sinners to the Father

Death and life have contended in that battle stupendous

The Prince of life, who died, reigns immortal.