

Good Friday Homily
By: Fr. Paul Magyar

Gospel of John Passion

After the last supper, Jesus and his disciples besides Judas go out into the garden of Gethsemane which means “oil press”, in the Kidron Valley. The Hour that Jesus talks about is His destiny and trial that becomes personalized in Judas: “my betrayer.” Judas arrives with the Sanhedrin army and betrays Jesus with a kiss showing a perverted sign of friendship. Peter cuts off the high priest’s servant’s ear specifically because in Lev 21:18 it states that a person with a mutilated ear cannot enter the Temple and therefore becomes spiritually bankrupt. Jesus heals the ear in the gospel of John but not in gospel of Matthew.

During Jesus’ Sanhedrin trial the high priest Caiphas tears his clothing to indicate that Jesus has committed blasphemy for equivocating himself with God. The punishment is death. Peter denies Jesus three times, privately, evasively and publicly. Judas commits suicide either by hanging or jumping off a cliff due to the loss of his moral bearing.

During the trial with Pontius Pilate, Pilate gives the people an option about which prisoner they want to have released. Barabbas the bandit whose name means “son of the father” or Jesus Christ which means “God saves” and “anointed one.” The biblical reality presented by John the evangelist is that the “Son of the Father” is released and “God saves” the “anointed one.”

Jesus is crucified on Golgotha which means the place of “the skull.” It is located on a stone hill part of an abandoned quarry part of the mount Moriah chain outside the Jerusalem walls looking on the temple courtyard. “The skull” is the skull of Adam the first human. Traditionally Shem the son of Noah brings the skull on to the Ark. After the flood subsides Shem buried the skull of Adam here. Melchizedek the priest king of Jeru and Salem guarded the skull.

Pontius Pilate writes the tablet on top of Jesus’ cross that says in Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic: “Jesus of Nazareth King of Yours.”

Jesus is crucified on the feast of the passover at 9 am and hangs on until 3 pm. At 9 am the national lamb of God is sacrificed on the altar at the temple courtyard. Then all the household lambs are sacrificed one after the other until 3 pm. At 3 pm the servant of the high priest ascends the northeast temple tower and blows into the shofra, which is a trumpet from an Ibex horn to signify the end of the sacrifices. Jesus waits to hear it because the sound is the voice of His Father. The Israelites in the desert heard God’s voice on Mount Sinai loud and resounding as a shofra from heaven. Jesus is the final, last and greatest of all sacrifices. Jesus the lamb of God dies last.

Praying for you, Fr. Paul Magyar