# “Our Messiah”

The theme of all our readings today is ***“Our Messiah.”*** We are led to realize that the light of the world is coming to redeem us from sin and death through His passion and death. He came to die so we can live. He is our God who came to save us so we can go to heaven and see the face of His Father and live with God for eternity. He came into the world being born of a woman by the power of the Holy Spirit to take up our flesh and experience everything we do without sinning. He came to show us the way to the Father. He is the truth, the way, and the life.

The Messiah came into the world as the light. A bright light that shines to all parts of the world. Through His light, those who love Him and follow His commandments, would reflect His light like the stars for all eternity. It is through those who first believed in Him that the entire world has come to have the knowledge of Him as the light of the world. We too have been enlightened and have been made light out of darkness. As followers of Christ, we must always stand firm in our commitment to the Lord.

In our first reading, the Church invites us to see this passage from the Book of Prophet Isaiah as part of a prophesy of our Lord’s suffering and passion for our salvation. We are told that God was please to crush the Messiah for our sins and that the Messiah gave up His life for us as an offering for our sin, which only the Messiah could fulfill. The passage point to part of the story of our salvation. If we can remember, in the garden, our Lord surrendered His will to that of His Father by saying **“My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will”** (Matt 26:30b).

When we look at this passage from the lenses of the New Testament, we will also notice that because of His suffering, the Messiah would be raised to see the light of the world again, which points us to His resurrection at the fullness of days which would be on the third day. God also said, because of His suffering, the Messiah would justify all who are faithful to Him and His Gospel. He is the sacrificial lamb that was slain for our justification and redemption.

In our second reading, we heard about the fulfillment of the Messiah as the great high priest who passed through the heavens. He is the only one with human nature that has seen the Father because He came from the Father. We are told to spread the Gospel because of His human nature, the Messiah could sympathize with us. True empathy can only come from someone who has being through the same experience and knows what is feels like.

Jesus the Messiah has been through all the experiences we as humans go through in our lives. He was tempted by the devil, He was hungry, He cried and shed tears because of the loss of a friend, He was betrayed by one of His friends and He was denied by one of His closest friends. He was homeless. The only thing He did not experience is sin which was not part of creation and is repugnant to God.

We have often been warned not say too casually that we know how another person feels. Because few others really do know how another person feels. However, Jesus is our High Priest who gained access to God for us and does approach His Father for us with sympathy because He knows how we truly feel. So as the letter to the Hebrew says, let us ask for His throne of grace with confidence so we can receive His unfathomable mercy and we can grow from grace into grace. He will never reject us when we surrender our will to His.

In verses 32-34 earlier in our Gospel reading, Jesus made a prediction of His death that would fulfill the prophesy in our first reading. He did so because He knew that in His Father’s plan, the shedding of His blood on the cross would be the price of our salvation. In these verses, we hear about Jesus’ suffering from His point of view. He predicted His suffering at the hands of the Gentiles who would mock Him, spit upon Him, scourge Him, and put Him to death. He also predicted His resurrection on the third day.

But the twelve apostles He just shared His prediction with about His passion, did not get it. Two of them James and John were concerned about their place in the kingdom. They wanted preferential treatment. The rest of the apostles on hearing about the ambition of the two, were angry at them. Jesus then explained to them that to be the greatest in the kingdom would mean serving Him with humility and serving others. Jesus was eager that we understand and relish our identity as children of God.

Jesus wants us to have peace and serenity that exclude the type of ambition manifested by the apostles in our Gospel reading. Jesus wants us to know that the God of the universe is our Father who has prepared for us a share in His own life and loves us with greater love than any devoted parent could have for their children. Jesus wants us to rejoice instead of having useless ambition to attain greatness. He wants us to rejoice in the fact that we are precious in the eyes of God and that our worth has been measured by His standard, the blood of His divine Son.

As a constant sign of His fatherly love, He lovingly feeds us every day with the Holy Eucharist, the body and blood of His Son. As we come to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, let us rejoice that we are children of God who loves us beyond our imagination.