

~~29-1-68~~

1.4.68

Laudario di Costanza

side 2²: Lamentation

FADE

Q. (record-sleeve words)

In 2 weeks time we'll be celebrating the great festival of Easter; before then, as part of our commemorating and celebrating what Jesus Christ has done to redeem us, we'll have to think, meditate and pray about what He went through — his sufferings and death. So these 2 weeks, in the worship and prayer of the Church, are devoted to reminding us of these things and their meaning. As we recite our midday prayer now, let us try to keep our minds on Christ and on the way He reconciled us with His Father. I will read for you some very old prayers — not for their curiosity value, but so that you can pray them with me.

PRAYERS

Listen now to the chant of an old Latin hymn for pardon and forgiveness — the words are Latin, but the music itself carries the sense of longing and asking God's mercy

Attende (clergy chant)

Yesterday was the beginning of the 2 weeks of Penitentialtime. The word "Penitentialtime" is an old one, with a meaning consecrated by Christian usage. Like a lot of other consecrated words and phrases,

perhaps constant use has, so to speak, devalued it; at least, in modern English the word Penitence has a different immediate connotation and it's well to remember that our Christian vocabulary may not be as clear as we think it is to our modern fellow-men. What we're thinking ~~about~~ and praying about these weeks is the suffering of Christ — something very real. Suffering is not sentimental, whether on Calvary or in Vietnam. When we think of the suffering of Christ, it is something He accepted and went through at the end of His life on earth. It happened 2,000 yrs. ago. It was part, the chief part in one sense, of the way in which He redeemed mankind. It's meaning, why He did this, why He had to go through this, is what was and still is the important point — and this is what we must try to grasp in prayer.

What He suffered, and the way He did it is vitally important if we who share his ^{risen} life through Baptism ~~are to~~ understand the meaning of suffering in our own lives & in the world around us — because Christ still lives on; and by His own suffering and death which brought mankind back into the family of God. He transformed the seemingly senseless, futile, of human anguish, distress, suffering, pain and death itself.

What Jesus Christ did in his human life was to accept

fully our human situation — to live a fully human life, and to live it, as only He could, in a way pleasing and acceptable to God. And because suffering, pain and death are so much part of the human condition, He accepted them too and in the way he did so, in loving trust and dependence on His Father's will, showed us how they can be made fruitful; for this, they were the gateway to His resurrection and a new life which he won for us and wishes to share with all men. He didn't find it any more easy than we do to accept the prospect of suffering & death — the Gospel account of His prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane shows us that — but He recognized that here was God's will which He must accept with love. Christ didn't go around looking for suffering for Himself — in the course of his teaching and preaching He recognized evil, far better than we will ever do, for what it is, the result of man's rejection of God, refusal to acknowledge God — and by His miracles of healing & curing He showed that a new power to overcome evil was at work in the world. But when the time came, His Hour he called it, for Him to pass from this world back to His Father, then He accepted for Himself the full force of the power of evil and hate in our world. He accepted it freely & gladly so that for our sakes He would overcome it and free us from necessary slavery to all the ~~the~~ evil & suffering we can't avoid in human life.

Our Father who art in heaven
 Hallowed be thy name
 Thy Kingdom come
 Thy will be done on earth as
 it is done
 Give us this day our daily bread
 & forgive us our trespasses as
 we forgive those who
 trespass against us
 & lead us not into temptation
 but deliver us from evil

And they full of grace
 The love is what they
 Blessed of those who
 & blessed in the fruit of the work
 Jesus
 Holy Mary Mother of God
 Pray for us sinners
 Now & at the hour of our death
 Stay be to the Father Son H. Sp.
 & it was in begin. in now &
 ever shall be, with without us