

Dear Friends,

After a winter that seemed endless, we start April with 8 and 10 degree temperatures. Whatever happened to in like a lion and out like a lamb? It feels as though we've had the lion since December. However the stormy weather has not abated in terms of the economy and many people are unemployed and under-employed. Although the stock market has improved and investment income is up, it is hard to make up for the years of lost income. More people on the edge of retirement are realizing that their planning for their "golden" years has not been sufficient. Many are feeling lost and alone and are wondering where to find hope and comfort.

When we look at the Passion of Jesus we see his true aloneness. Isn't it sad that there was no one there for him? His disciples ran away; the people in whose houses he had dined wouldn't or couldn't go surety for him; the women had no status in that community so their voice would carry no weight. No human support was available.

But what about God? Jesus cries out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" No angels rescued him, a voice from heaven didn't blast the soldiers or turn them to stone. It seems Jesus was alone to die: just a few women stayed at the foot of the cross. It seems very bleak. And yet Psalm 22 quoted by Jesus ends on a hopeful note: *My soul shall live for [God]; and my descendants shall serve him; they shall be known as the Lord's forever./ They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that he has done.*

We can rejoice. We can look for God and find him in places simple or complex, strange or familiar, lonely even when surrounded by people. Because Jesus died the death he did, he vicariously participates in all our painful experiences. He takes them into God and through God's Holy Spirit we are never alone; Jesus has promised that he will always be with us.

The gifts of the Passion and Resurrection are salvation, the knowledge that our sins are forgiven, and the wonderful experience of God-with-us!

Easter Blessings

Fran Kovar  
Rector







