

## **WHAT THE LORD SHOWED US THROUGH HIS DEATH**

Rt. Rev. Peter M. Buss

You all know some of the story of Easter. You remember how the wicked people who ruled the Jews at that time hated the Lord. They hated Him because when the Lord taught the truth it showed how wicked they were. They also hated Him because people were following Him, and they wanted to rule people themselves.

So these evil people planned to kill the Lord, and they made up all sorts of untrue things about Him. They sent soldiers to take Him prisoner, and eventually they forced Pontius Pilate to let the Lord be crucified. Then they thought that they had won, and they came and laughed at the Lord on the cross. They thought that He would die and would not bother them any more.

Of course they were wrong. The Lord can't die. It seemed as if His body died, but three days later, on Easter morning, He rose again. He showed Himself to Mary Magdalene and to the disciples, so that they might know that He was indeed their God, and that they should worship Him forever.

We might wonder why the Lord let these evil people do such terrible things to Him. After all, He is the Lord. He could have stopped them. Why didn't He? The reason is that the Lord loves us so much that He let these things happen to Him, so that He could teach us some things which are very important to us. Today, I will tell you about two of these things.

First of all, the Lord wanted to show us how terrible evil is when it is settled in your heart. He let us see how the leaders, who pretended to be so good, could break all their own laws, and murder and lie, because they were evil and hated the Lord.

Just as the evil people of that time hated the Lord, so evil people today also hate what is good and right. A thief hates policemen and judges, even if they are good people, because they stop him doing the bad things he loves to do. And evil people hate the Lord most of all because His laws look after good people and punish evil people. A lot of people on this earth try to laugh at the Lord, because they hate Him and His laws and because they are evil at heart.

The second thing the Lord showed us was how weak evil people are. You remember that the leaders thought they had killed the Lord. But then the Lord rose again, and He is alive forevermore. They hadn't killed Him at all. Today, thousands of years later, we still worship our Lord as He lives in heaven.

In the world today, it might seem as if evil people are strong. They can make good people unhappy. A wicked king can make lots of people unhappy. But the Lord showed us that evil people can only hurt us for a short while. When evil people bring us unhappiness, the Lord works to make us happy again. So all evil people are really weak, just like the leaders who thought that they had killed the Lord were really weak before His power and love.

So when you think of Easter Sunday, you can remember how people hated the Lord and tried to kill Him, but all that they did came to nothing. And then you can think how all evil people try to hurt the Lord, and good people, but because the Lord has beaten the hells, evil people can only hurt someone for a little while, but the Lord brings happiness forever.

Amen.