

## The Faith of Our Fathers

The devil was tricked by his own wickedness. He inflicted a torment on the Son of God which was changed into a medicine for all the sons of men. He shed innocent Blood, which then became both the price and the drink which restored the world. He suffered upon Himself the impious hands of those who raged against Him, who while intent on their dreadful crime served the plan of the Redeemer. And such was the tenderness of His love, even for those who put Him to death. (St. Leo the Great) ❧❧❧

If we consider the Passion of Christ rightly, it immediately produces a feeling of deep shock and an uneasy conscience. Our Father will not release sinners to His only and dearly beloved Son unless this Son assumes a very heavy penalty on their behalf. He Himself tells us that this Son was “stricken for the transgression of my people.” What can ever befall the sinner after the most beloved Son has been smitten in this way? If you ponder the matter deeply enough, you will remember that it is God’s own Son, the eternal wisdom of the Father, who suffers for your sake. (Blessed Martin Luther) ❧❧❧

When humankind was estranged by disobedience, God our Savior made a plan for raising us from our fall and restoring us to friendship with himself. According to this plan Christ came in the flesh, he showed us the gospel way of life, he suffered, died on the cross, was buried and rose from the dead. He did this so that we could be saved by imitation of him, and recover our original status as children of God by adoption. (Basil the Great, Caesarea) ❧❧❧

So that He might deliver man from the bonds of the death-bringing transgression, Our Lord Jesus concealed the power of His majesty from the fury of the devil. Instead, He offered him the weakness of our inferiority. For had this proud and cruel enemy known the plan of God’s mercy, he would have tried not to inflame the Jews with evil hate, so that he might not lose the slavery of all his captives. And so

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For *Palmatum* or *Palm Sunday*. These excerpts are intended as mediative pieces for the Day’s pericopes. They have been edited and abridged for style, sense and space.

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