

The Easter Triduum, in a single ritual built up over three days is at the heart of what it means to be a Christian and what the implications are for humanity and the whole cosmos of God's saving intervention into human history through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We begin with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday focusing on the Eucharist and what it means in terms of love and service symbolized in the washing of the feet. We then gather again on Good Friday to recount John's Passion and to recall the death of Jesus on the cross and his being laid, lifeless in the tomb. Then our great liturgy culminates in the Easter Vigil where we listen again to the stories of faith highlighting the experiences of God's people of creation, covenant and liberation and to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and the victory of light and life over the forces of darkness and death.

Jesus subjects himself to all the forces that would kill him. The power of Pontius Pilate, the small-minded meanness of the religious leaders, the greed and cynicism of Judas, the fickleness of the crowd and the cowardice of his own apostles- all of these things conspired to lead to the murder of this innocent man.

And these selfish human weaknesses and hatred continue to kill the innocent through heartless wars, greed that leads to poverty and the exploitation of people and our planet.

In the Easter story though we find exemplified and enacted the pattern of God's liberating plan and source of hope for humanity and the whole cosmos. The powers of darkness do not have ultimate victory. The tomb cannot hold Jesus because the power of God's love and faithfulness overcomes all those powers of darkness. This is the saving power of God, and it is there for all of us, holding out hope in the face of our fragility.

Let us rejoice and be glad!