

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



“The next day, seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, “Look there is the lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world.” Jn1:29

This ‘next day’ refers to the second day in the opening chapter of the Gospel of John, which is structured in the form of a week, mirroring the Book of Genesis which recounts the creation narrative in a week. In Genesis God created heaven on the second day, and in the Gospel Jesus appears on the second day. There is a new creation. Heaven, which was closed after the sin of Adam, is now opened again with the presence of Jesus.

Jesus opens heaven because he is the “lamb of God,” – the first title given to him when he appears on the scene of humanity.

The Aramaic word Talya means both lamb and servant.

Jesus is the lamb which Abraham told Isaac that God would provide. God has provided for each one of us in our moments of trial and difficulty. The experience of Abraham is our experience, God does not ask for sacrifice, because he is the one who sacrifices himself for us.

Jesus is the Passover lamb of Exodus. Slain at sunset, his blood is sprinkled on the doorposts of our house. Our house has many doors; our lips, our mouth, our eyes, our ears, our heart, our soul. Christ our Passover is Risen. He has made Passover with us, bringing us from death to life, from darkness to light, from slavery to freedom.

Jesus is the lamb of expiation in Leviticus, who is offered as a purification rite, the offering of the poor. All of us are poor in the sight of God, and all of us are in need of purification. The rites prescribed in the Scriptures have been fulfilled for us by the lamb of God himself.

Jesus is the suffering servant of Isaiah, who was led like a lamb to the slaughter. He did not open his mouth; he took upon himself all our sins. How many times have we betrayed him, sold him out, and yet he never returned evil for evil. He has always been patient with us, humble. The Holy Humility of Christ!

Jesus is the lamb in the Book of Revelation, who opens the seals to the scroll. The scroll had writing on back and front, and was sealed with seven seals. All wept because there was no one fit to open and read it. The scroll is our life, which is full of writing, inside and outside. The events of our life can only be opened, interpreted, understood by the lamb who is slain yet standing, Risen.

This lamb of God will come to each one of us in the liturgy today. Because of his presence here we can begin to experience heaven.

May he provide on the mountains in our life;

May his blood cover the lintels of our house as he makes Passover with us;

May he purify us with his holy humility;

May he open the scroll of our life...that we may see God’s love in every event.