

Palm Sunday – 13.4.14

Very briefly.

There is one predominant matter with Our Lord's crucifixion. Certainly it is not one of despair – it is not a protestation of righteousness – nor a threat of recompense from on high – nor is it a last call to his disciples – that they are called to a struggle against Rome. None of these – but one thing, one matter, that of humility.

The Collect: that “Jesus Christ is sent to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility.”

The Epistle: “and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself.” And in the Gospel today, let not that last cry be interpreted as other than a cry of humility.

“Eloi Eloi lama sabachthani.” It is addressed to My God, My God, Why hast thou forsaken me?

The price of our redemption is that he, the Son of God, should know abandonment by his Father.

That Eloi, Eloi, underlines that which is made known to us at the beginning of his life – wherein born of Mary, there were intimations of suffering for both mother and child. Suffering that is the greater in that they suffer for and with each other.

So it is, these intimations of humility from that first Christmas. And again at the other extreme – Our Lord's crucifixion and death. That which is made known to us is of the Son of God – coming to us as the Son of man – as the Word of God made flesh.

An humility which is at the heart of man, when we come of age.

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