

“STEWARDSHIP/WITNESS SENTENCES”

APRIL 2015

APRIL 2 (Maundy Thursday)

Exodus 24:8 And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, *“Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words”* The blood of the Old Covenant foreshadowed the only true sacrifice of the New Covenant, the Blood of Christ. A sacrifice has been made for sin, and we receive the benefit of this sacrifice as we receive the Body and Blood of Christ. Having been brought into the kingdom through His sacrifice, we then learn to live our lives as living sacrifices in faith toward Him and in fervent love toward one another.

APRIL 3 (Good Friday)

Isaiah 53:3 *“He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”* Behold the Lamb of God, the Man of Sorrows, the Suffering Servant who gives His all that our sins might be washed away and so that we might be brought into His Father’s kingdom and family. Every sacrifice pales in comparison to this One True Sacrifice.

APRIL 5 (Easter)

John 20:1 *“Now on the first day of the week...”* All is made new by the Resurrection of Jesus! Even the day of worship has transitioned from the Old Testament’s Saturday Sabbath to the Lord’s Day of the New Testament. For the Lord has made all things new: He has begun a new week for a new creation in rising from the dead as the New Adam. We are also made new in Him – a new heart, a new life, new desires, a new outlook toward God: all this comes from our Risen Lord’s grace.

Witness: Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

APRIL 12 (Easter 2)

John 20:19 *“Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.””* The peace we have in Jesus is what makes a life of good works possible. Since we know that it is Jesus who saved us, and not our works, we are now free to do good works not out of self-interest, but for the right reasons: out of thanksgiving toward God and love for our neighbors.

Witness: Christ has risen from the dead and has been crowned with glory and honor. Let the joy of the risen Lord shine forth in all you do this week.

APRIL 19 (Easter 3)

I John 3:2 *“Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall like Him.”* There is the essence of our sanctification: becoming like our Lord. As St. John notes, this will only be completed in the Resurrection.

Witness: The risen Christ calls us to proclaim repentance and forgiveness of sins in His name to all nations, beginning right in our own neighborhoods and in our own homes.

APRIL 26 (Easter 4)

John 10:14 *“I am the Good Shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me.”* What does it mean to know the Lord? It starts with being known by the Lord: He claims us as His own and calls us by name. Then, once we are His, we learn to know Him...and in knowing Him we learn to imitate Him. And that is how the Christian life of good works and generosity grows from the Lord’s grace.

Witness: Making a difference in the world one soul at a time.