



The Cathedral of St. Andrew - Honolulu

Sermon: Year A – Maundy Thursday, April 13, 2017

The Reverend Canon R. K. “Moki” Hino,

We begin this evening's readings with the story of the Passover where God commands the people of Israel to spread the blood of young lambs over their door posts so that their first sons are passed over and saved from the consequence that's about to fall over the first sons of Pharaoh and his people. God spares the first sons of the people of Israel, but as we know, God does not spare God's own first son. God uses him as the sacrificial lamb so that no sons or daughters will ever be doomed to eternal death, but will instead resurrect to eternal life through the waters of baptism and the blood of the lamb of God.

And it's worth noting that again and again in the Bible Jesus tells us that the way to get to that spiritual place of salvation is through humility, emptying ourselves of anything that distracts us from the presence of God, emptying ourselves the way Jesus emptied himself even to the point of death, death on the cross.

And tonight, we have yet another example of humility, humility where Jesus strips down – the ultimate sign of vulnerability - he strips down and kneels before his disciples and washes their feet; and then commands them to do the same for one another, because it's in that compassionate caring for one another that we will find salvation, salvation for others and salvation for ourselves.

But it strikes me that in order to get to that place, not only do we have to wash the feet of the other; we also have to let our feet be washed – to be vulnerable and open, to let the others see the dirt and the messiness on our feet and in our lives. So not only do we have to minister to one another, we have to allow others to minister to us and maybe, just maybe, it takes more humility to have the feet washed than it does to wash the feet, for it's then that we're seen for who we really are—as we really are.

And therein lies the irony of this night, this night where Jesus institutes the sacrament of Holy Communion and commands us to wash the feet of others and to allow others to wash our feet as well.

So, I invite you to come forth to take part in this ritual—to be cleansed by the ministrations of our brothers and sisters, and then to cleanse our sisters and brothers in return through our ministrations, the work of our hands. And as we minister to one another, my prayer for all of us is that as we have our feet washed, that we can go back in time, see the face of Christ on the person washing our feet, and feel the ministration of Jesus to us as we prepare for his ultimate ministration to us all—going to the cross as the sacrificial Lamb of God to ensure that we will be passed over and attain everlasting life.