

Daily Devotion For April 13, 2022

“On a hill far away, stood an old rugged cross, the emblem (symbol) of suffering and shame. And I love that old cross where the dearest and best for a world of lost sinners was slain.” The Old Rugged Cross.

On Sunday, we celebrated Palm Sunday. We were thankful for Rick and Ellie Hattori who donated the beautiful Palm Fronds to grace our sanctuary. Ellie also made crosses that were made from strips of white ribbon. This coming Friday for our Good Friday service we will celebrate the Lord’s Supper by partaking of bread, the symbol of Christ’s body broken for us and the juice, the symbol of Christ’s blood shed for us. In the front of our sanctuary, each Sunday we see the cross.

Christianity has symbols, but there is no other symbol that speaks to our faith than the cross. But what does the cross symbolize to you? In first century Palestine the cross was a hideous symbol of execution. In the first century there were three means of capital punishment. Stoning, beheading, and crucifixion. All three are mentioned in the New Testament, but of all three, crucifixion was the most hideous. It was the symbol of torture and suffering. It was to be a symbol of death and a deterrent to crime. For that reason, it was only administered to the most dangerous of criminals.

Over the years, we have domesticated the cross. Its power to offend and repulse people has been lost. People wear the cross as a piece of jewelry. Can you imagine wearing a hangman’s noose or an electric chair as a piece of jewelry? But we do that as the cross.

**Thought For Today:** What does the cross symbolize to you? Is it the emblem of suffering and shame of Christ to you?

**Today’s Prayer Focus:** Thank God for the cross of Christ and what it symbolizes personally to you. Deo Volente.