

Good Friday 2021

Grace and peace be with you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

So last night I was telling you about these crystal drops that I found at Hobby Lobby. I looked at them and thought baptism, but the cashier looked at them and thought tears.

Tonight, on Good Friday, we remember all of the tears that have ever been shed, the tears of the past, the tears of today, and the tears that will be shed in the future. The tears of death, injustice, poverty, starvation, disease, pandemics, pain, anger, suffering, and every kind of sorrow.

Tonight the water we focus on are the tears that flow from our very own eyes. The tears that cry out as testimony to the hurt we feel inside. They are the tears that cry for another way. They are the tears that fall from our eyes, because things just are not the way they are supposed to be.

We cry these tears so that we can see things more clearly.

Tonight the water we focus on are the tears we cry. They are the same tears of water that were shed at the crucifixion by Jesus and everyone who loved him when he was killed out of jealousy and hate.

Yes – Jesus weeps. Of course he weeps. Jesus weeps with us and for us.

And those tears do not go unanswered.

The tears we shed, and the tears Jesus shed, get replenished with the waters of baptism.

We will never run dry, because we are baptized. Because we are baptized, we can lament for ourselves and with others. When we cry, we cry with Jesus the fountain of living water.

And crying is really important. We need to cry. Holding in tears is not healthy. We have to let them out, we have to testify to our pain, or we will break, and others might break as well.

When we cry we let others know that it's ok to cry. There is nothing wrong with it. It's important. And the good news is that when we do cry, we never cry alone. Jesus cries with us and others do as well.

But tears are not the end of the story, they never are. Crying enables us to move forward. Without tears, we are stuck in tragedy and are unable to move on, to move on to baptismal waters where service, lament, and joy are all tied together as one for all of eternity, for us and for the sake of the world.

Water runs through us, individually and as a community. Water runs throughout our holy days as it has throughout the entirety of God's story, from beginning to end.

A river runs through it and it is a very personal, though not private, river. It is water that touches us each individually, but always in community.

Have you ever noticed that when one person cries others cry as well? Has anyone ever told you, or have you told anyone, "Stop crying. You're making me cry."

Tears tie us together, just as the waters of baptism do.

Tears are personal, but never private, because we all know loss. We all know pain. We all have things for which we cry, and Jesus joins us right there and then brings us forward into a future of hope as a community, because we cannot face sorrow alone.

Water ties everything together, and water ties all of us together, with Jesus and all people everywhere.

Thanks be to God. Amen