

Good Friday and Easter Sunday

When you read this, it will be Good Friday. When I was a child Good Friday was a very respected day. Many may not have been able to go to church, but they were the essential workers, nurses, doctors, police officers, and such. Grocery stores and other businesses such as banks, department stores, restaurants and most businesses were closed from noon to 3 PM. As a nurse I always wanted that day off, but it was granted not by who asked first but by seniority. I had to work for several years to attain that seniority and actually get Good Friday off. The first year I had Good Friday off I awoke in the morning planning my day and especially planning to go to the Good Friday service. I went in the kitchen and discovered that the refrigerator was not working. I looked in the freezer and found the food was thawing. In the freezer were several containers of smelt which my son had caught. I decided I didn't want to waste it and began frying smelt. It took me the whole day! I handed out cooked smelt to all the neighbors and spent hours cooking smelt. It reminded me of the "loaves and fishes" story the fish seemed to keep on multiplying. All the neighbors seemed happy to receive the fish especially the elderly couple across the street. They had been like grandparents to my children especially my son. The gentleman would gladly spend time with him and take him fishing and the woman always made my son a rhubarb and strawberry pie because the poor boy had a mother who detested rhubarb and refused to plant it, grow it, pick it, cook it, or eat it, obviously having been frightened by a rhubarb plant as a child. After my first Good Friday off I was more successful when taking Good Friday off and was able to go to church after that where I could once again receive the miracle of Christ's love for each one of us, that he lived and died for our sins and our salvation. Every year I hear myself saying, "I'm not worth such a sacrifice." And that still small voice says back, "God says you are." I hope you also hear that voice saying, "You are my child, and you are worthy." To me it was and is always the prelude to Easter Sunday, to the glorious miracle of the Risen Christ. Easter is coming and we will once again sing praises to God for the risen Christ and thank him for the sacrifice made to assure our salvation. Christ died for our sins on that cross and rose again to show us that death isn't the end but a beginning. Thanks be to the risen Christ!! Glory, Hallelujah!!

John 20:26 A week later his disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands, reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Lord, we thank you for another Good Friday and Easter Sunday. We thank you for the sacrifice of Good Friday and the miracle of Easter Sunday. We thank you for the risen Christ. Be with us Lord that we may be worthy of what you have given us, for the blessings of each day, for the love in our homes and in our church. Be with those who are ill and suffering, be with those who grieve and those that are lost. Help us Lord to reach out to all your people, may we bring others to you. Bless Pastor Don Gotham and his ministry, be with him in all he does and be with his family. Be with our staff and leaders, bless their work and efforts, we thank you for their faithfulness. Be with our country Lord, may we be a kinder, more loving and forgiving nation. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Grace Epperson