**Always Powerful (Matthew 27:45-54)**

 You heard how abandoned Jesus felt at that moment; how misunderstood he was, so much so that even his final screams were not comprehended. You saw that Jesus, until his last breath, held on to the Word of God; after all, his words were from Psalm 22. Even until his last minutes, people still did him wrong; what is it supposed to mean when someone gives vinegar to another who is thirsty? What is that? But some didn’t even want that gesture shown to Jesus. “Leave him alone,” they said, “let’s see if Elijah will save him.”

 In that moment of spiritual blindness, however, the Lord still worked with power. It was almost as if there was an overload of power built up within him, because he had surrendered himself to be crucified, but had previously been constantly serving and releasing the Holy Spirit’s power from within onto others.

 People were blind, but he was filled with power; people were far from God, but he didn’t even want to *feel* far from God for even a few hours! But he was going to have to be satisfied with just a scream before giving up his last breath. It was at that moment, however, when the power of The Crucifixion came forth. In the place of great pain, came a great shaking and release. In the place of deep darkness, God suddenly entered in. Suddenly, the place that only one person (the High Priest) could enter once a year, was open to the whole world, to all who would accept this suffering but victorious Messiah-High Priest.

 People get upset when they think about Jesus’ death. It is true that the Lord drank the most bitter cup of human experience that existed. However, he drank it obediently, and all the way down to the dregs of the proverbial cup. Anything more than that was not required of Him by the Father; only to die a horrible, shameful death. Beyond that, however, beyond The Crucifixion, it is the era of power that rushes in; the era of the Resurrection-causing Power of the Holy Spirit; and we who were alone without relationship to God, are enveloped by his love and light.

 He that was crucified would experience Power now; and He would open our way too, though we still have to wait until the Final Judgment, joining Him in conquering the condemnation of death. The power of God was so apparent at the moment of Jesus’ death that even the pagan centurion and his guards said who Jesus was correctly.

 Crucifixion is painful, but the power it contains leads us to the life of Resurrection. This (Maundy Thursday) evening is the beginning of (the remembrance of) Jesus’ most bitter hours of his ministry. You also, before coming to Jesus, needed to go through a Good Friday. That old self of yours needed to be crucified so that your new self would rise from the grave and come forth into a new life, in the power of Jesus, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

 May Jesus’ crucifixion be a reminder of his power. Yes, crucifixion is painful – but with Jesus, its power leads us to a resurrected life. Yes, do cry that Jesus had to go to the point of crucifixion so that we could be saved by God. Remember, however, that the Crucifixion became a moment of Power – one that would quickly bring us The Resurrection.

 The Lord Bless you all.