

## Stripes of Salvation

*Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. 1 Peter 2:24*

Holy Week began this past Sunday with the celebration of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. We know it as "Palm Sunday" as palm leaves were carried by the crowd that had gathered.

*On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord. John 12:12-13*

As we know, through scripture, the week that started with such jubilation did not end that way. Those who had cried "Hosanna" became fearful for their lives and hid. Even His disciples were not faithful. As Jesus prayed in Gethsemane, he asked Peter, John and James to "watch" as he prayed. They fell asleep. That very night Judas betrayed Him and Peter denied Him. By Friday, He had been whipped, beaten, mocked, humiliated and nailed to a cross to die. Only a handful of witnesses were there when He drew His last breath.

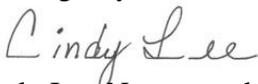
*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. 1 John 1:7*

The stripes that Peter refers to are the lash marks of the whip. Those stripes represent the pain that He endured for us, for our salvation. "That we...should live unto righteousness" His blood was shed before He reached the cross. Yet, His death upon that cross is what had to happen for our salvation. His blood, all of His blood had to be shed for us. When the soldier pierced His side, the last drops of His eternal blood were shed.

*But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. John 19:34*

As we continue Holy Week with Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, remember the stripes that spilled the first blood of Christ for our redemption.

Blessing to you this Easter season,



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