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The Paschal Mystery – Part One (CC 571-623)

Genesis 3:1-7 - “Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the animals that the Lord God had made. The serpent asked the woman, “Did God really tell you not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?” The woman answered the serpent: “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; it is only about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, ‘You shall not eat it or even touch it, lest you die.’” But the serpent said to the woman: “You certainly will not die! No, God knows well that the moment you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods who know what is good and what is bad.” The woman saw that the tree was good for food, pleasing to the eyes, and desirable for gaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.”

Beginning of pain, suffering, sin and death

Jesus is the second Adam – because he reversed that original sin

His will – that we enter into an intimacy that lasts forever with Him

Before Jesus came, died, and rose, Sheol, was the holding place for those who would go to heaven, but it was not open yet.

Paschal Lamb – 1 year old male lamb without blemish and sacrifice it

Take blood and put on doorpost

Passover – Angel of death will Passover those homes with the blood

CC 574 – From the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry, certain Pharisees and partisans of Herod together with priests and scribes agreed together to destroy him. Because of certain of his acts – expelling demons, forgiving sins, healing on the Sabbath day, his novel interpretation of the precepts of the Law regarding purity...

The New Testament fulfills the Old Testament

Matthew 5:17-19 and CC 577 - “Do not think that I came to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

Jesus is God and He knew it.

CC 590 – Only the divine identity of Jesus’ person can justify so absolute a claim as “He who is not with me is against me”; ... something “greater than the Temple” ... “Before Abraham was, I AM” ...

Divisions among the Jewish authorities concerning Jesus

Sinners were the cause of the Passion of the Christ

CC 598 - ... the Church has never forgotten that “sinners were the authors and the ministers of all the sufferings that the divine Redeemer endured.” Taking into account the fact that our sins affect Christ himself,

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the Church does not hesitate to impute to Christians the gravest responsibility for the torments inflicted upon Jesus, a responsibility with which they have all too often burdened the Jews alone:

We must regard as guilty all those who continue to relapse into their sins. Since our sins made the Lord Christ suffer the torments of the cross, those who plunge themselves into disorders and crimes crucify the Son of God anew in their hearts, (for he is in them) and hold him up to contempt. And it can be seen that our crime in this case is greater in us than in the Jews. As for them, according to the witness of the Apostle, "None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory." We, however, profess to know him. And when we deny him by our deeds, we in some way seem to lay violent hands on him.

Song of the Suffering Servant

Isaiah 53:1-5 - Who would believe what we have heard? To whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

He grew up like a sapling before him, like a shoot from the parched earth; There was in him no stately bearing to make us look at him, nor appearance that would attract us to him. He was spurned and avoided by men, a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity, One of those from whom men hide their faces, spurned, and we held him in no esteem. Yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured, While we thought of him as stricken, as one smitten by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins, Upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed.

Things do not just happen to God – He ordains them

CC 599 - Jesus' violent death was not the result of chance in an unfortunate coincidence of circumstances, but it part of the mystery of God's plan

Jesus shares the largest part of the cross with his friends

He died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures

Jesus died for every human being, personally

Christ offered himself willingly to the Father

Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the World / Paschal Lamb / We are in essence covered by that blood

CC 615 - "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous."

Our participation – we must suffer with him

Colossians 1:24 – "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church ..."

What could be lacking in His suffering?

Nothing, but we have yet to fulfill our life with the sufferings of Christ.

He suffers through us.

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