

Glory in the Cross

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*Holy Week in the Third Edition
of The Roman Missal*

Paul Turner

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P. T.

Abbreviations

- CL Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. Circular Letter Concerning the Preparation and Celebration of the Easter Feasts. Prot. N. 120/88, 20 February 1988. In *The Liturgy Documents: A Parish Resource*. Vol. 2. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1999.
- CB Ceremonial of Bishops. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1989.
- GIRM General Instruction of the Roman Missal
- PL *Patrologia Latina*. Edited by J. P. Migne. Paris: Apud Garnier, 1844.
- RBC Rite of Baptism for Children. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2002.
- RCIA Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1988.

Preface

Time disappears when someone we love is dying. Day cedes to night without much notice. Activities we have promised to do we discard instead, like the sweater we doff on a slowly warming afternoon. Routines we never break cease. Something else has taken our attention, is sitting in our brain, has bound our legs and lowered our head. Nothing else is important but this person who gave meaning to our life and whose threatened passing wicks away the confidence that hitherto steadied our days. Yet no death completely surprises, and each one bestows a deeper understanding of the meaning of life.

Holy Week invites the entire church into the emotional experience of loss, fear, and redemption. We remember the One who died for us. We accompany his waning days, attentive to his final words and actions, discovering anew our love for one who is lost—and the joy of one who returns.

The risen Christ abides in the hearts of believers born generations after his days in Jerusalem. These same believers reconnect with him in the rituals of Holy Week. By their fecund endurance these rites have performed many services. They proclaim the Gospel as Jesus commanded. They reawaken the faith of believers. They frame these beliefs in the context that human beings most crave: narrative. The liturgies of Holy Week are not reenactments of the passion and resurrection of Christ. Rather, they are means by which the faithful enter these mysteries. Each participant will ultimately experience not just the death of a loved one but death itself. Through Holy Week, each believer prepares for the day of the body's destiny and the soul's soaring freedom.

This book offers a commentary on the rites of Holy Week found in the Roman Missal of the Catholic Church. It does not treat the other liturgical services found in the Liturgy of the Hours. It does cover each Mass of Holy Week, as well as the principal service of Good Friday, which is not, properly speaking, a Mass. The reader will find it most helpful to consult the Roman Missal together with this text or use this text as a companion to a direct study of the Missal. The numbers of the

sections of this book match the numbers in the Missal's presentation of each day.

The third edition of the Missal has introduced quite a number of small changes to the rubrics of this week. Most of them import legislation from other sources or clarify former ambiguities. Some new material is based on practices prior to the Second Vatican Council. The revised texts should help the faithful enter into the mystery of dying with the timeless hope of resurrection.