

Palm Sunday weekend

March 28th, 2021

Philippians 2:6-11

Here we are at the conclusion of Lent and the beginning of Holy Week. We have many choices of readings today but what I want to concentrate on is Philippians. We have two important words: emptied [himself] and obedient.

Paul says that Jesus emptied himself. To do this Jesus prayed, he went up the mountain as we read many times to pray, to listen, to hear God's message, word. So, we could say Jesus emptied himself to FILL himself with God, with the word of God, with the message from God.

The next word to examine is obedient:

“coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance; he humbled himself becoming obedient to the point of death...”

The word obedient is from the Latin *oboedire to hear and from ob-* ‘in the direction of’ + *audire* ‘hear’.

Could we say that Jesus “emptied himself” to hear, to receive, to [as I said in last week's commentary] to complete, to avail himself to fullness of his God-ness, his identity as the Son of God, who Jesus really is? Jesus learned who he was by emptying himself and recognizing his own Incarnation.

So, I always ask myself, “so what does this mean for us, today?”

I think it has a strong meaning for us. We to must “empty” ourselves OF ourselves. When our inner world is self-focused, how can we be available to anyone else, including the Spirit of GOD? So, in our prayer, we too must strive to hear, to listen. In our Latin derivative to *audire* “in the direction toward” ...

So, in Paul's hymn, let us also “empty’ ourselves. In obedience to God's Spirit may we hear and discover who we belong to: GOD.