

St Leo the Great

from Sermon 72.1

Brothers and sisters, the whole of the Easter mystery has been laid before us in the gospel narrative. All of you should have a clear picture of the events, as these have just reached the ears of your minds through your physical ears. The divinely inspired account has clearly reported the treacherous betrayal of the Lord Jesus Christ, the trial by which he was condemned, the barbarity of his crucifixion, and the glory of his resurrection.

Nonetheless, a sermon is still required of us, that our priestly exhortation might augment the solemn reading of Holy Scripture. I am certain that you are demanding from us with pious expectation what is due. Since there is no room for ignorance in the ears of the faithful, the seed of the Word, delivered by the preaching of the gospel, show grow in the soil of your hearts.

When the choking thorns and thistles are uprooted (cf. Matt 13:7) the plants of pious thought and the buds of right desires may spring up freely into fruit. For the cross of Christ, which was set up for the salvation of mortals, is both a mystery and an example: a sacrament whereby the Divine power takes effect, and an example which excites human devotion. Redemption enlivens the desire of those who are rescued from the prisoner's yoke to follow **the way** of the cross through imitation.

If the world's wisdom proves itself in its errors in such a way that everyone follows the opinions, customs, and entire way of life of the one chosen to be the leader, how can we share in the name of Christ except by uniting ourselves inseparably to him who asserted that he is "*the Way, the Truth, and the Life*" (John 14:6) That is, **the way** of holy living, **the truth** of divine doctrine, and **the life** of eternal happiness.