Good Friday -- 1981
Rolling Meadows

Rev. Carl F. Thrun

IN NOMINE JESU

St. John 3: 13-21

The CROSS is there in hundreds of ways a places. On a "Clear Day" -- the "Cross, High and Lifted Up" from the Top of the Steeple casts its shadow in many ways and places. The CROSS is the most basic Christian Symbol! But do people really SEE THAT SYMBOL?? We wear it around our necks -- we put it almost everywhere -- BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, DOES THE SYMBOL REALLY SPEAK? For most people the CROSS says "religious," "holy," and "Church." And if anything is "doubtful" ADD A CROSS! GIVE SOME VISUAAL FORM TO THEOLOGICAL DISPUTES! GIVE SOME STATEMENTS!

"THE CROSS HIGH AND LIFTED UP" --- THAT IS THE SYMBOL OF CHRISTIANITY ---- the SIMPLE CROSS -- the CRUCIFIX BECOME DOMINANT -- CRHIST TRIUMPHANT -- CHRIST RISEN -- CHRIST RAISED -- CHRIST DEFEATING THE HUMAN CORPSE -- CHRIST DEFEATING DEATH AND THE GRAVE! HE IS THE "RESSURECTION AND THE LIFE" -- and HIS WORDS ARE SURE: "BECAUSE I LIFE YOU SHALL LIVE ALSO." There is no other surety!

"LIFT HIGH THE CROSS!" There is no other way for our REDEMPTION! There is no other way for our SALVATION! There is no other way to BRING US BACK TO GOD! "LIFT HIGH THE CROSS!" And REMEMBER FOR SURE THE GOD-AWEFULL AGONY THAT HAPPENED THERE -- REMEMBER HOW HE CAME; AND DRANK, AND SHED HIS BLOOD, and was CRUCIFIED!

There is no say for any of us around GOOD ERIDAY! No matter how difficult it may becpme -- No matter how difficult it is to remrmber ---- what has to be said is that "CHRIST HAS DIED, CHRIST IS RISEN, CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN." .... .THE CRROSS IS THE FUNDAMENTAL CHRISTIAN SYMBOL like WINE, and WORDP amd SONG, and GESTURE! Let the CROSS -- "HIGH AND LIFTED UP" be the SYMBOL OF THE DEATH AND REASRURECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!

He is "HIGH AND LIFTED UP." He is "LORD AND GOD." ~~Hix~~ He is "KING OF KINGS AND LORD O LORDS." There is NO OTHER. As St. John said it with Nicodemus" THE SON OF MAN MUST BE LIFTED UP." "NO ONE HAS ASSENDED INTO HEAVEN BUT HE WHO HAS DESCENDEDED FROM HEAVEN, THE SON OF MAN. AND AS MOSESES LIFTED UP THE SERPENT IN THE WILDERNESS, SO MUST THE SON OF MAN BE LIFTEDED UP, SO THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN IN HIM MAY HAVE ETERNAL LIFE?" ..... Isn't that what our CHRISTIAN FAITH and CHRISTIAN TRUST is all about? ..... That is why GOOD FRIDAY is SO GOOD -- FOR US AND FOR OUR SALVATION!