

I have loved you, with an everlasting love – I have called you and you are mine. .

Covenant is simply how the Bible explains God’s relationship with us – and our relationship with God.

Covenant is how one Scripture scholar answers the question: what is the Bible all about?

And because we read from the Bible every Sunday – we are always reading about God’s love for us.

But the covenant has been a special focus of ours during these days of Lent. And hopefully from the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent to this last Sunday – we have come to terms with the challenges and blessings of covenant.

And now, during this week, the story of God’s love for us becomes especially intense – as we see and hear and experience that God holds nothing back from us – not even his own son – to get our attention, to capture our hearts – to get us to lay down our lives for the sake of the Kingdom of God.

How will we respond to the great love that God has for us? Will we keep our part of the covenant?

It is in Jesus feelings of abandonment and his experience of pain – that he comes to know without a doubt – that God is always with him. As we enter into those feelings and experiences of Jesus this week – will we remain faithful – keeping our part of the covenant?

Or will we, like the disciples – scatter and run?

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus asks his disciples, “Could you not watch one hour with me?” How many hours will we be able to spend with Jesus in the liturgies of this week: on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and at the Easter Vigil and Mass on Easter Sunday?

If you cannot spend any of these hours with Jesus – then at least take some time in quiet, in prayer, and in reflection this week – to continue opening your heart to Christ – and to strengthen the covenant relationship we have with God, through our Lord and Savior: Jesus Christ.