

Dear Friends in Jesus,

Leo the Great lived 450 years after the time of Christ. He served the Church as a pope, and is regarded as one the most influential leaders of the Christian Church. He wrote of Jesus' death as being a great exchange. In part he wrote:

“Jesus, knowing that the time was now come for the fulfillment of His glorious Passion, said, “My soul is sorrowful even unto death (Matt. 26;38). In our nature, therefore, the Lord trembled with our fear, that He might fully clothe our weakness and our frailty with the completeness of His own strength. For He has come into this world as a rich and Merciful Merchant from the skies and by a wondrous exchange has entered into a bargain of salvation with us, receiving ours and giving His; honor for insults, salvation for pain, life for death.”

Here Leo summarizes the great truth of Lent and Easter. Jesus lived for you, His death became your death, and His rising to life gives you eternal life. This Great Exchange took place in your Baptism, where God exchanged your sins for His righteousness, all so that you might live with and for God forever.

Only when we come to the realization of our sinfulness and depravity can we recognize not only the need for this Great Exchange, but the blessings of this Exchange as well.

May God grant each of us true sorrow for our sins that we might, in faith, receive this Gift of salvation given to us in our Savior, Jesus.

May God surprise you with His goodness,

Pastor Davidson

