

Happy Easter!, continued

I just wanted to get that Godtube video up before continuing writing. I can't believe it's been three days since my last post (not counting the first Easter post of course!). Well, yesterday was a busy day. Friday was, well, Good Friday. Like a Good Friday should be, it was a very dreary day outside- snowing for most of the day. After shoveling (for the last time until next winter I hope!) I headed out to the church.

The service that day was like a tour. The first stop of this "tour" was worship time. They basically played a loop of songs. From the bulletin we were given, it looked like they played the same five or six songs over and over for the five hours (with periodic breaks of just instrumental music). I hope they switched off bands throughout the night- playing the same songs for five hours straight would be kind of grueling.

Anyway, the songs would prepare our hearts for the next part of the "tour", which we could skip to at any time. This part had signs and card packets all around telling us why Christ had to die. There was even a projected image of this on the wall. There were many, many reasons along with Bible verses supporting each reason. I think I read maybe half of them as I walked through.

Next was a meditation area where we would see constant changing images of Christ's "trial" and execution. This actually wasn't working for some reason when I arrived, but they finally got the projectors going before I moved on. Step four of the tour had us write our own sins and nail them to a large wooden cross. There was a long wait for this as there were I think only two or three hammers. We could also leave the cards in a basket at the foot of the cross.

The final stage was communion. We would go in the room, grab

our own bread (small cracker) and wine (grape juice) and take some time to reflect, pray, and take in the two elements all on our own time. All in all it was a very somber mood throughout the evening, befitting of a day like Good Friday.

Saturday I was at the church after 1:30 (supposed to be at 1:30, but as usual I was late) for choir rehearsal. The worship music the day before had been somber, but the Easter music we had been practicing was anything but. Where Good Friday was a time of reflection, Easter is a celebration! We actually did very well according to several people. It was a **lot** of singing- not just the four special songs we were doing as a choir, but five worship songs as well. It was near constant singing from almost the time I got there on Saturday until after 5:30, and again today. The well-wishers' critiques must have been spot on as our time to be there this morning was pushed from 7AM to 7:25, but it was still a bit grueling with so much singing- two services plus the rehearsal (similar to what felt like two rehearsals last night plus the service). I was actually supposed to sing at the end Saturday night (about 6:25ish) but I felt I was needed in the children's ministry as there was only one leader besides another choir member and myself there, and the other choir member went back down to sing the final song. I was able to sing this song the two Sunday services however.

So here we are, voice resting for now. I really should practice singing more often. My voice held out this time, but there have been times in the past where my endurance didn't last through all the services. I remember particularly from when there were **four** services at one time before the second campus opened and many people went there instead. That one extra performance turned out to be a killer of my voice. But I don't sing in the choir all for me. It's about giving back to God. He gave me this talent, so it's only right to use it to give some back to Him.

Once again, HAPPY RESURRECTION DAY!!!