

## **Even during the Sombre Season of Lent are we Celebrating our Salvation**

I used to enjoy all four seasons. In recent years, though, I have come to feel more and more that I could do without winter. The snow and the cold wreak havoc with my desire to go outside, and that gets to me more and more; I suppose it is something that comes with age. I have also come to think, more and more often, in recent years, that I sound like a broken record; I suppose that that, also, is something that comes with age. Be that as it may, I no longer feel like a man for all seasons, not literally.

I am aware, though, that winter serves its purpose. We need the snow not only in the fields, but also in the mountains, and then in the reservoirs, to finally end up in the fields. So there is that.

Many Christians have a season in the Church Year they consider their favourite, the hymns and readings and general atmosphere of which they enjoy the most; I suspect some may have seasons they feel they could do without.

The different seasons serve each their own purposes, though, in the life of the Church of Christ, and His Christians; not only because they make preaching and worship to sound less like a broken record, but, more importantly, because each draws attention to aspects of the faith which would otherwise easily be forgot, and should not be.

Most of our Lenten hymns and readings make us to follow our Lord Jesus on His path to suffering and death, and remind us that it was for us He had to go where He went, because of us and our sin, the evil and ungodliness we all have in our hearts and minds, and make manifest in our lives. This does bring a rather sombre tone to our worship during Lent; to an outside observer, I suppose this might make our worship during Lent seem dark and depressing.

To those who have eyes to see, though, and ears to hear, the joy of the salvation of God still shines through the sombre tone, and for those who actually live the life of the Church, and pay attention, as we go through the different seasons.

For lent is not all darkness and death; how could a Christian forget that what the Son of God suffered for us is the greatest manifestation of the goodness of God? How could a Christian forget that the sin that is being set before us is that from which He has redeemed and rescued us, at the most terrible cost to Himself?

As Lent sets the seriousness of our sin before us, it also sets before us the goodness of God and the glory of our salvation; even if it does so somewhat sombrely and discreetly.