

IMPULSE FOR THE LENT

Christ Jesus was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Phil 2:6-11

The letter of the apostle Paul to the Christians in Philippi is considered to be one of the oldest testimonies about Jesus Christ. So what does this text have to do with the Lenten motto 'Pilgrims of hope'?

There is someone who could possess tremendous power. Most people would use it for themselves and ensure that they can lead a carefree life. Not so Jesus! According to Christian understanding, he is not only man, but also God. And he renounces this power and lives his message to the last consequence - even unto death! The special thing is that he does not remain in death, but is 'raised' by God; he is resurrected from the dead. His death would be meaningless without the resurrection - the resurrection would not be possible without his death! Because both happened, we Christians exist today.

Isn't that a reason to hope that life goes on? Through death?

I hope that you cherish this hope and hold on to it.

Yours, Barbara Scheck
(Pastoral counsellor and hospital counsellor)