

Given the length of the Passion Narrative I'll keep it short today.

The year after I was made Pastor in Port Angeles I was also given St. Anne's in Forks. A Parochial Vicar did most of the ministry there, but once a month I would go out to Forks for five days to check on how things were going. The rectory there was a double-wide trailer set out behind the church. This is in downtown Forks, but even downtown Forks is pretty close to the country. Our neighbors had a large lot and kept a dozen chickens in the yard – including a rooster.

This was my first experience of living with a rooster. And I learned first-hand that the whole thing about roosters crowing at dawn is nonsense. They sound off at all sorts of hours. So, I didn't like that rooster much because he didn't let me get as much sleep as I wanted – always crowing when I least wanted him to.

“Immediately a cock crowed. Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had spoken: ‘Before the cock crows you will deny me three times.’ He went out and began to weep bitterly.” The cock crowing

reminded Peter of his sin. Maybe this Lent has reminded us of our own sins. Or maybe it isn't Lent, but some other factor – but right now we are feeling the weight of our past. This conviction may be a burden we don't want. The cock crows at the worst times, we feel. Why can't he just let me sleep?

But the cock crowing is actually a good thing. It's Jesus' promise to us. It allowed Peter to recognize his sins and repent, painful as that was. So it is with us. The tug of our conscience is meant to be a wake-up call for us. It may come at an uncomfortable time. We can be lulled into thinking that just because we have promised Jesus many things, that's enough. But, as with Peter, our brave words aren't always lived out. We need to be reminded of that.

As we enter into Holy Week and the story of Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection, let us remember our need for our Savior, the sins we have, the times we have denied Jesus' will in our own lives. But then let us celebrate these liturgies with joy because we can now rest

peacefully knowing that Jesus died to forgive those condemned by the
cock's crow.