

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
Good Friday, March 29, 2024 ~ 6:00 PM Worship Service

Isaiah 53:1-3

Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground.

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

Opening Prayer

Holy God, we come to worship in the gathering shadows of Jesus' suffering and death. We come with his friends, the men and women who have followed him in every place and generation, to hear once again this story of service and betrayal, of weakness and courage. We come to witness your love in action. Be with us, we pray, in Jesus' name.

Amen.

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God.
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

("When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" Words by Isaac Watts, Music by Lowell Mason © Public Domain CCLI #358926 Streaming #20317932)

The Old Rugged Cross

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best for a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain: So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, 'til my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown.

O, that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God, left His glory above, to bear it to dark Calvary.

In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, a wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died to pardon and sanctify me. *Refrain*

("The Old Rugged Cross" music and words by George Bennard © Public Domain CCLI #358926 Streaming #20317932)

Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed

Alas! and did my Savior bleed and did my Sovereign die?
Would He devote that sacred head for sinners such as I?

Was it for sins that I have done He suffered on the tree?
Amazing pity! Grace unknown! And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide and shut His glories in,
When Christ, the great Redeemer, died for man the creature's sin.

("Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed?" words by Isaac Watts tune by Hugh Wilson Public Domain CCLI# 358926 Streaming #20317932)

Call to Confession: Isaiah 53:4-6

*Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.
But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.*

Prayer of Confession

God of grace, we come before You with amazing wonder that we can hope in Your forgiveness. We are all guilty. We humbly come before You to ask forgiveness of our great and many sins, not just now and briefly, not once – but seventy times seven. Forgive us completely. Grant us Your grace to turn from our own path so that we may stand before You cleansed, forgiven and secure. In Your name, Amen.

Assurance: *Colossians 2:13-14*

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Beneath the cross of Jesus I gladly take my stand: the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,
a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way, from the burning of the noon-tide heat and the burden of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus my eyes at time can see the very dying form of One who suffered there for me;
and from my smitten heart, with tears, two wonders I confess – the wonders of His glorious love and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place; I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face,
content to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss, my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

("Beneath the Cross of Jesus" words by Elizabeth C. Celpbane music by Frederick C. Maker Public Domain CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Scripture: *Matthew 27:1-2, 11-26*

¹ When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. ² And they bound him and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate the governor.

¹¹ Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You have said so." ¹² But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. ¹³ Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?" ¹⁴ But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

¹⁵ Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. ¹⁶ And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. ¹⁷ So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" ¹⁸ For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up.

¹⁹ Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream."

²⁰ Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. ²¹ The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." ²² Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" ²³ And he said, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

²⁴ So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." ²⁵ And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" ²⁶ Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Message: *Pontius Pilate*

O Sacred Head Now Wounded

Moment of Silent Reflection, Then Depart in Silence

You are invited to celebrate
the resurrection of our Risen Lord
with us on Sunday, March 31
at 10:30 a.m.

Pastor: Robert W
Music: Paul A, Cal B, Brian K, Lee V, Bill V

Worship services are also broadcast live in the church basement and streamed online for anyone unable to worship in the sanctuary.

Nursery is available with a paging system for children under 3 years in the Education Building.

An assistive listening system is available in the sanctuary; to use this system, switch hearing aids to "T".

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