

**HOLY WEEK**

# **TRANSFORMING LOVE**

**Good Friday**



# Call to Worship: Shirley Paz, Genesis 22:7-8

Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, 'Father?' 'Yes, my son?'

Abraham replied. 'The fire and wood are here,' Isaac said, 'but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?'

Abraham answered, 'God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.' And the two of them went on together.



# Hymn : How Deep the Father's Love

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# Reader: Todd Becker

Who has believed our message? To whom  
has the LORD revealed his powerful arm?  
My servant grew up in the LORD's  
presence like a tender green shoot, like a  
root in dry ground.



There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him. He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care.



Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins!



But he was pierced for our rebellion,  
crushed for our sins.

He was beaten so we could be whole. He  
was whipped so we could be healed. All  
of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We  
have left God's paths to follow our own.  
Yet the Lord laid on him  
the sins of us all."      Isaiah 53:1-5



# Response

O Christ, you who forsook no one but was forsaken by the closest of friends, and who committed no crime yet was sentenced to a criminal's death, we enter your presence in awe and adoration.





On this day, centuries ago, you could have saved your life, but you refused to betray the purpose for which you had been born.

You came into the world to love God and neighbor as yourself, and when that love required you to shoulder a cross, you summoned the strength to bear it.



Today, O Lamb of God, as we sing and pray about the cross, teach us its meaning once again and help us to take up our cross and follow you.



**Reader:** All of us like sheep have gone astray; each of us has turned to his own way, but the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; he was brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. Unjustly condemned, he was led away

Isaiah 53:6-8



# Response:

But it was the LORD's good plan to crush him and cause him grief. His life is made an offering for sin... and the Lord's good plan will prosper in his hands. My righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins.                      Isaiah 53:10,11



# Hymn: O Sacred Head



# Reader:

Then Pilate went back into his headquarters and called for Jesus to be brought to him. “Are you the king of the Jews?” he asked him. Jesus replied, “Is this your own question, or did others tell you about me?”



“Am I a Jew?” Pilate retorted. “Your own people and their leading priests brought you to me for trial. Why? What have you done?”



Jesus answered, “My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world.”





# Response:

O Lord Jesus, you are rightfully a king,  
and yet you came to earth as a baby, grew  
to a man, and worked the works of God in  
order to show us the true kingdom.



You told us that the kingdom of God was at hand. You told us what the kingdom of God was like – that it was not like the kingdoms of this world for it is based on sacrifice and truth and righteousness and freedom and love.



As we contemplate your death today, may we understand the greatness of the kingdom you opened to us. May we never disregard all you did and said in order to make us citizens in the kingdom of God.



May we live in grateful recognition and in loving response to God our Father and Jesus the King, by the enablement of the Holy Spirit.



# Reader: The Crucifixion, Judy Durant

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



Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You have said so.” But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer.



Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?” But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.



Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand.





And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!”

And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him.



Here is your king,' Pilate said to the Jews.  
But they shouted, 'Take him away! Take  
him away! Crucify him!'



‘Shall I crucify your king?’ Pilate asked.  
‘We have no king but Caesar,’ the chief  
priests answered. And they led him away  
to crucify him.



Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. There, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left.



Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.' And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.



One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: 'Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!'

But the other criminal rebuked him. 'Don't you fear God,' he said, 'since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.'



Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. Jesus answered him, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.'



The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, ‘He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.’





Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, 'Do not write "The King of the Jews", but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.' Pilate answered, 'What I have written, I have written.'



It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.'



Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, 'I am thirsty.' A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips.



When he had received the drink, Jesus said, 'It is finished.' With that, he bowed his head and yielded up his spirit.

Selected verses from  
Mathew 27, Luke 23, and John 19



Hymn: What Wondrous Love is This  
*[ Jon- do not use verse 2 ]*



**Message: Shirley Paz**

Excerpt from **A Violent Grace**  
by Michael Card

**Lamb of God**

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 **westchurch**

# Song

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## Leader:

Lamb of God, being human, you knew the pain the cross would inflict; being divine, you knew it was the only way we could be redeemed. We praise you for willingly suffering a cruel death so that we may experience the glories of heaven.





# People:

We thank you for your sacrifice. You were willing. You were able. You were pure. You were determined. You were both lamb and king. Your sacrifice was love poured out.



## Leader:

God sent Jesus into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved, that all who believe in him might be delivered from the power of sin and death and become heirs with him of all the benefits of life eternal.



# People:

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that we may be made free, and that you may be revered.



# Leader:

And so now, as children of the Most High God and as the redeemed of the Lord, we bring intercession because you are good, and merciful, powerful and active.



## People:

We pray for your work of redemption in the world, and for the Holy Spirit to have great liberty in drawing souls to you, Lord Jesus. We pray against all that would oppose the advancement of your kingdom.



## Leader:

We pray for the sacrifice of your servants around the world, and for all the communities of faith wherever they may be found. We pray for the persecuted church. We ask that all these would be strengthened and upheld in the knowledge that you are present and powerful and that your plan will conquer.



# People:

We pray for refugees, for those affected by war, for the poor, the homeless, those without provision of food or safety, those who are oppressed, and those in financial distress. May they find answers for their needs, care for their hearts, and be comforted in your reality, O Lord.



# Leader:

We pray for all in emotional turmoil, for families and individuals suffering from the effects of addictions; for those families and individuals suffering from psychological issues, despair, doubt, depression or feeling no hope.





# People:

We pray for all who suffer and are afflicted in body; for the sorrowful and bereaved; and for prisoners. We ask that you, God, would heal and comfort all these, that you would bring relief from pain and anxiety, and assure them of your compassion and love.



**ALL:**

Gracious God, the Comfort of all who sorrow and the Strength of all who suffer, hear the cry of those in misery and need. In their afflictions show them your mercy, and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them, for the sake of him who suffered for us, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.



## Leader:

Lord God, we pray for all who actively oppose Christ by word or deed, for all who are enemies of the cross of Christ and persecutors of his disciples, for all who in the name of Christ have persecuted others, that God will open their hearts to the truth and lead them to genuine faith.



# People:

We pray for those with whom we ourselves have conflict or disagreement, and those who may consider us their enemies. Lead us into continued prayer for peace and humility.



## Leader:

Merciful God, creator of the peoples of the earth and lover of souls, let your gospel be preached with grace and power to those who have not heard it. Let your kingdom come.



# People:

We pray for a greater commitment to you, and for the grace of a life lived close to you, our Guide and Shepherd, so that you may be seen through our abiding faithfulness and confidence in you.



**ALL:**

Eternal God, bring to completion your saving work so that the whole world may see the fallen lifted up, the old made new, and all things brought to perfection by him through whom all things were made, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



Hymn:

**TRANSFORMING LOVE**





# **Benediction:**

Do not hurry away from the cross. Linger to consider, carefully and well, the preciousness of his sacrifice for you and the greatness of his mercy toward you.



## Response:

May we depart confidently, knowing that the Spirit will keep us in our crucified Savior's strong embrace, and prompt us to trust and obey him always. May the God of peace go with us all.

All praise to the Lamb of God. Amen.

