

Good Friday ~ Friday, April 3, 2026

“The Heart God Desires: The Sacrificial Heart of Christ”

Isaiah 53:1-9 / 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 / John 18:1-19:42

There are some days in the Christian year that invite celebration. And there are other days that invite _____. Good Friday is a day for silence. It is the most solemn day in the Church’s calendar. A day when we gather, not with praise and triumph, but with quiet _____. A day when we slow down enough to stand at the foot of the cross and look—really look—and _____ on the events that took place at Calvary.

The cross was the _____ of Jesus’ earthly life. It was for this reason He was born, and His whole life had been an act of _____ that culminated in His laying down His life.

The Babe born in Bethlehem came to _____—a death that was not only extremely painful, as He struggled for every breath until His lungs eventually collapsed with exhaustion—but also shameful to the Romans and _____ to the Jews.

“Cursed is anyone who hangs on a tree.” (Deuteronomy 21:23)

“May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...” (Galatians 6:14)

Paul was able to say this because he had a doctrine, a _____, and a belief about the Cross that went far beyond what the _____ eye could see.

He was able to see _____, beyond the physical—beyond the pain and humiliation—to a deeper spiritual _____.

“The message of the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God.” (1 Corinthians 1:18)

Although the cross was a symbol of _____ and death, Paul says that for those who believe, the message of the cross is loud and clear: God’s ability to reveal life and _____, through powerlessness, hatred, and defeat.

The events of that first Good Friday weren’t simply a tragic moment in human history; they were the moment when the _____ of God was revealed most fully and clearly.

“...despised and rejected, pierced for our transgressions, and crushed for our iniquities...” (Isaiah 53:3ff)

The servant heart of Christ doesn’t stop at the _____—it goes all the way to the cross, where we see the _____ heart of God.

3 CHARACTERISTICS OF A SACRIFICIAL HEART

#1. A sacrificial heart is _____.

When we come to the cross, one of the first things we’re confronted with is _____. Not symbolic suffering, not mild discomfort, but real, physical, _____ suffering.

In the Roman world, crucifixion was the most slow, _____ and painful form of execution imaginable—reserved for rebels, criminals, and slaves. It wasn’t just death, it was disgrace; it wasn’t meant to just kill, but to _____.

What’s striking isn’t just the suffering itself, but the way Jesus _____ into it. He doesn’t resist. He doesn’t call down angels. He doesn’t turn away. Instead, He walks silently towards it and _____ it.

“He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter.” (Isaiah 53:7)

This wasn’t an _____ of history; nor was it Jesus being caught in the wrong place at the wrong time. This was a _____ act.

“For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again...” (John 10:17-18)

“Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” (Ephesians 5:2)

- The cross shows _____ of sin. Sin isn’t a small thing. It’s not simply a mistake or a bad habit. It’s something that _____ relationship with God, distorts our lives, hurts others, and damages the world around us. The cross shows us just how _____ that damage runs.
- The cross shows us the depth of God’s _____. Because rather than leaving us dead in our sin and brokenness, God _____ into it.

“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” (Isaiah 53:6)

“God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Rom 5:8)

Both of these passages speak of the _____ nature of the cross. In other words, the cross wasn't just an example of love; it was an act of _____.

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.” (2 Corinthians 8:9)

This matters deeply because it means that when we suffer—when we experience pain, grief, loss, or confusion—we're not _____. On the cross, Jesus entered into our _____, and walks with us _____ it.

#2. A sacrificial heart is _____.
“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” (Luke 23:34)

Jesus doesn't speak words of judgment, but rather, _____. This isn't forgiveness offered after the fact, but forgiveness offered in the mist of the _____. Nor is it directed towards people who are asking for forgiveness, but rather those who are actively _____ Him.

God's response to sin isn't _____, nor is it immediate _____. At the very place where sin is most clearly displayed, _____ and forgiveness is offered.

“God made you alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by cancelling the record of debt that stood against us...This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.” (Colossians 2:13-14)

These individuals forgave not because the wrong didn't matter, not because their pain wasn't real, but because they refused to let _____ have the final word. Moments like this stand out to us because they're rare, and feel almost _____. That's because true forgiveness always _____ something.

Forgiveness isn't pretending that sin doesn't matter; it's dealing with it in such a way that _____ becomes possible.

“In him, we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.” (Ephesians 1:7)

Implication #1: _____ is available to us in Christ. No matter who we are or what we've done, no matter how far we've _____, no matter how broken things may feel, the cross declares that God's grace is _____ than our sin.

“Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they

shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.” (Isaiah 1:18)

Because of the finished work of Jesus, God's forgiveness is _____.

Implication #2: Those who've received forgiveness are also called to _____ it.

“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.” (Ephesians 4:32)

This isn't always easy for us to do. Sometimes forgiveness is a _____. Sometimes it takes time. Sometimes it requires prayer, patience, and the help of the _____.

#3. A sacrificial heart _____.
“After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled...said, ‘It is finished!’” (John 19:28-30)
It is finished = *tetelestai* =

From the beginning of His earthy ministry, Jesus spoke about a _____ given to Him by the Father...on the cross, that mission is _____, and Jesus' salvific work reaches its completion. Nothing more needs to be added, nothing more needs to be done.

“He has appeared once for all...to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.” (Heb 9:26-28)

Christ's sacrifice was final—no _____ needed. It was full, perfect, and _____, as the prayer book says. The price has been paid. And the door to heaven has been _____.

Our salvation doesn't depend on what we do or don't do, on whether we follow the _____, or get everything right all the time. Our salvation rests on what Christ has already _____ for us—on His _____ work on the cross.

However, the reality of this shouldn't lead to complacency, but to _____; to a life of response rather than striving. We don't obey to earn God's love, we obey because we've already _____ it. We don't serve to prove ourselves, we serve because we _____ to Him.

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This is the love that has _____ us. And it's _____.

How will you respond to God's sacrificial love this morning?