

Good Friday

The Death of Jesus

45From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. **46**About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eli, Eli, e lemasabachthani?*” (which means “*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*”). **d**

47When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.”

48Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. **49**The rest said, “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.”

50And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

51At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split **52**and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. **53**They came out of the tombs after Jesus’ resurrection and **e** went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

54When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, “Surely he was the Son of God!”

Good Friday is a significant reminder of God’s love for humanity.

It’s difficult to imagine that a person would undergo such cruel torture and death so that all others can find salvation, forgiveness and grace.

It isn’t until we understand and experience the power of God’s love, that the cross and death of Jesus makes sense.

Isaiah 53

4 Surely he took up our pain
and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.

5 But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.

6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

When we experience the love of God, we are transformed. We become more loving, more compassionate, and more willing to serve others.

When we embrace the message of the cross, we are transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit, and we become new creations in Christ.

2 Corinthians 5

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: **a** The old has gone, the new is here! **18** All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: **19** that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. **20** We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. **21** God made him who had no sin to be sin **b** for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Jesus came to give Himself to us, for us, and He does not stop giving until "It is finished."