

Friday, April 3, 2026

## Good Friday | Holy Week

Isaiah 53:10-12

*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, amen.*

Why?

Why all this violence, suffering, and death?  
Why does Jesus go to the cross?

The prophet Isaiah tells us:

*"Out of the anguish of His soul  
He shall see and be satisfied.  
By His knowledge shall the righteous one,  
My servant,  
make many to be accounted righteous,  
and He shall bear their iniquities."* (Isaiah 53:11)

And the author of Hebrew echoes:

*"looking to Jesus,  
the founder and perfecter of our faith,  
who for the joy that was set before Him  
endured the cross,  
despising the shame,  
and is seated  
at the right hand  
of the throne of God."* (Hebrews 12:2)

Jesus suffered anguish and death for a reason.

But what exactly is that reason?

Well, these Scriptures tell us:

It is a reason that He would be *satisfied* to see.

A reason that would give Him *joy*.

That reason is **you**.

Each one of you,  
with all your struggles and weaknesses,  
you are Christ's joy.  
Jesus looked forward to redeeming **you**.  
He endured all the suffering so that you—  
with your unique story, burdens, and hopes—  
could be brought together into His family.  
No one here is left out.  
You are the reason Jesus went to the cross.

This holy family,  
that is gathered to remember Christ's passion—  
**You** are the joy  
that was set before Him.

Jesus pursued the joy  
of being exalted  
to God's right hand  
among His redeemed people.  
And to achieve this joy,  
He had to endure the cross.  
For "*We all have gone astray like sheep;  
each person was misled in his own path;  
and the Lord has laid on [Christ]  
the wickedness of us all.*" (Isaiah 53:6)

This points to one truth:  
Every single one of us has sinned.  
Every single one of us sins.  
We have followed our own hearts.  
And our own hearts have misled us down our own evil paths.

Let us consider that for a moment.

We have not feared, loved,  
and trusted God above all things.

We have misused the name of our God.

We have failed to call upon His name  
in every trouble.

We have failed to call upon His name  
in prayer, praise, and thanks.

We have failed to fear and love God  
by prioritizing learning and loving His Word.

We have not honoured our parents  
and other authorities as we ought.

We have hurt and harmed our neighbours.

We have failed to support them in every physical need.

We have not led sexually pure and decent lives  
in what we say, think and do.

Husbands and wives have failed  
to love and honour each other.

We have taken our neighbours' money and possessions—  
even in ways that appear right on the outside.

We have failed to help others improve  
and protect their possessions and income.

We have told lies about our neighbours.

We have betrayed friends.

We have hurt people's reputations.

We have slandered.

We have failed to defend others,  
speak well of them,  
and explain everything in the kindest way.

We have coveted our neighbours' possessions and relationships.

We've schemed to get what we want  
in ways that appear right and legal,  
but only satisfy our lust and greed.

"[God] has told you,  
 O man,  
 what is good;  
 and what does the Lord require of you  
 but to do justice,  
 and to love kindness,  
 and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8)

But  
 "All we like sheep have gone astray.  
 We have turned—  
 every one—  
 to his own way.  
 And the Lord has laid  
 on [Christ]  
 the sin of us all." (Isaiah 53:6)

Christ had to bear that sin to redeem us.

"For the wages of sin is death,  
 but the free gift of God is eternal life  
 in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

In other words,

our sins earn us death.

But God gives us eternal life in Christ.

For

"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." (Isaiah 53:5)

And

"By His knowledge shall the righteous one,  
 My servant,  
 make many to be accounted righteous,  
 and He shall bear their iniquities." (Isaiah 53:11)

Upon the cross—Jesus bore all your sins.  
 They are gone.  
 They are consumed  
 in His agony and death.  
 All that remains is Christ's obedience.  
 His righteousness  
 that is accounted to you.

That is why it was "God's will to crush [Jesus]."  
 That is why Jesus endured the cross.  
 So you would be accounted righteous.  
 So you would be redeemed from your sins.  
 And the loving will of the Lord would prosper  
 in Christ's nail-scarred hands.

Jesus died for you.  
*"Because of this  
 He will cause many to inherit,  
 and He will portion out the spoils of the mighty,  
 because His soul was given over to death,  
 and He was reckoned among the lawless,  
 and He Himself bore the sins of many,  
 and He was handed over  
 because of their wickedness." (Isaiah 53:12)*

Jesus died for you so you could inherit eternal life.  
 So you could inherit His righteousness.  
 So you could inherit the Holy Spirit.  
 So you could receive the results  
 of Christ's victory  
 over sin and death.

Therefore,  
 in response to His loving joy in us,  
 let us now consider how we should live.  
 Fix your hope and trust in Him.  
 Turn to Him in faith and gratitude.  
 Trust anew in His gifts of forgiveness and life.  
 Open your hearts to His love.  
 In thankfulness, seek to follow Him each day.

You, who were once lost sheep,  
are now safe in His nail-scarred hand.  
And in His hand,  
the will of the Father prospers.

Jesus suffered and died,  
so He could see you here.  
So He could see you and be satisfied.  
So He could have the joy  
of *bringing many sons to glory*. (Hebrews 2:10)  
By His blood,  
you are now His family.

*"Out of the anguish of His soul  
He shall see and be satisfied."*

*"For the joy that was set before Him  
[Jesus] endured the cross,  
despising the shame,  
and is seated at the right hand  
of the throne of God."* (Hebrews 12:2)

Jesus,  
who was lifted up on the cross,  
is also raised from the dead.  
And He is raised up  
to the throne of God.  
And He beholds you,  
His redeemed brothers and sisters.  
And His soul is satisfied.  
His heart is glad.

He has made many  
 to be accounted righteous.  
 He has purchased you from your sins.  
 He has redeemed you from death and judgment.  
*"Therefore God has highly exalted Him  
 and bestowed on Him  
 the name that is above every name,  
 so that at the name of Jesus  
 every knee should bow,  
 in heaven and on earth  
 and under the earth,  
 and every tongue confess  
 that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
 to the glory of God the Father."* (Philippians 2:9–11)

Jesus pursued the joy  
 of being exalted to God's right hand  
 in the assembly of His redeemed people.  
 He endured the cross  
 to gather you around God's throne.  
 To gather you as His offspring.  
 To make you the children of God.  
 His holy, blessed, redeemed family.

Why did Jesus suffer the agony of death on a cross?  
 Because God the Father loves you.  
 Because your salvation is His joy.

Jesus pursued the joy  
 of being exalted to God's right hand  
 in the assembly  
 of His redeemed people.

You.

*And now may the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds  
 in Christ Jesus our Lord, amen.*