

Isaiah 52:13 – 53: 11

¹³See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. ¹⁴Just as there were many who were astonished at him—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals— ¹⁵so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

53Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ²For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. ³He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.

⁴Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. ⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.⁶All 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. ⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ⁸By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. ⁹They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the LORD shall prosper. ¹¹Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant,

shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. ¹²Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

The Institution of the Lord's Supper

²³For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for^(a) you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Maundy Thursday Litany:

Leader: Shut our mouths God. What we have not been told, we now have seen. What we have not heard, we now contemplate.

People: Jesus was wounded for our transgressions. Jesus was crushed for our iniquities. Yet, his punishment has led to our wholeness. By his bruises we are healed.

Leader: Oppressed and afflicted, Jesus kept his mouth shut. Like an innocent lamb led to the slaughter, he spoke not a word.

People: Is this justice? Or is it just plain cruelty?

Leader: Jesus poured out himself to death. He died the death of a criminal. And as he died, he prayed for sinners just like us.

People: Lord, have mercy on us.

Leader: Christ, have mercy on us.

People: Lord, have mercy on us.

April 18, 2019

1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Isaiah 52:13- 53:12

By His Bruises – Maundy Thursday

Kerra Becker English

Let me begin by saying that Isaiah was not writing about Jesus. We may read Isaiah's words about the Suffering Servant and see a reflection of Jesus, but that can only happen when we notice that Jesus lived the life of a prophet, one who would take the heat and be afflicted for preaching God's unpopular truth. That one would suffer so that others may be healed is a difficult teaching, and one that can easily be twisted to meet our own uncomfortable ends. It's dangerous for us to know the story of Jesus' suffering and begin to see all suffering as redemptive, because a LOT of suffering in this world is far removed from having any redemptive purpose or property. With their own bodies on the line, the prophets preached AGAINST the human misery that comes out of greed and tribalism, where the poor die at the gate and MY enemy quickly becomes GOD's enemy. That's why prophets raise the ire of nations and find disfavor with Kings. Being wounded for the sake of justice and being wounded because of injustice are two very different things. The prophets always knew the difference. Jesus did too.

So tonight, I invite you to picture Jesus, the events of his last days, and imagine how Jesus fits these words, or maybe how he doesn't fit these words. I'm simply going to trust these words of the Suffering Servant to be God's revelation to us as they were to Isaiah. Let yourself be filled with what Christ wants to show you about who he is. And then, as we come to the table set to remind us of how his broken body and poured out blood can heal us and restore us, speak to us

of forgiveness, and help us be among the prophets and their followers who seek justice and love kindness above any concern for their own safety.

You may want to close your eyes, or soften your gaze as you invite Jesus Christ to tell you about his suffering through these words of God as heard and proclaimed by the prophet Isaiah.

Wounded for our transgressions.

Crushed for our iniquities.

Is this the punishment that makes US whole?

By his bruises we are healed.

Oppressed.

Afflicted.

Silent - Like a lamb led to the slaughter.

Taken away due to a perversion of justice.

Cut off from the land of the living.

Stricken for the transgression of my people, that is God's people.

Having done no violence to others,

He was crushed and buried.

And it felt like God's doing.

And yet, out of his anguish, light.

Through his knowledge, satisfaction.

The righteous ONE, brings righteousness to MANY.

With prayer after prayer for sinners like us on his lips

He poured himself out even to death.

The servant of God startles the nations and closes the mouths of Kings,

Even though...

Even though his appearance was somewhere between ordinary and offensive.

Even though he was despised and rejected.

Even though he suffered many afflictions and was held of no account.

Even though he was despised.

Even though he bore all the sickness, infirmities, and indignities of being human.

Jesus, do we recognize you in this story of suffering?

Christ, do you still walk with us on this journey of pain?

At this table, do we remember how your body was broken?

In this cup, do we understand the prayers that flowed through your blood?

Through the act of eating, and drinking, and praying – we remember your gift –

We remember your death – until you come again. Amen.