



Good Friday

Isaiah 53 v 3-6

He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. 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. 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.

On Good Friday we remember Jesus' death on the cross. Old Testament prophecies, such as Isaiah 53, had said that the Saviour would suffer, be rejected, die and rise again and that is exactly what happened! But why did Jesus have to die?

The Bible tells us that we have all sinned (rebelled against God) and that the price for our sin is death. Jesus said He came to 'give his life as a ransom for many', meaning that *His* death would pay the debt for *our* sins. We can be forgiven when we repent and believe in Him!

Jesus came 'to give his life as a ransom for many'
Mark 10 v 45

Father God, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to die in my place. Please help me admit my sins and say sorry to you. Thank you for your forgiveness through Jesus. Please help me to understand that Jesus has paid my debt in full and help me start to live in a way that honours you. Amen.

On Easter Sunday we'll find out why Jesus' resurrection from the dead is so important.

Mark 15 v 22-39

They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”).²³ Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it.²⁴ And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

²⁵ It was nine in the morning when they crucified him.²⁶ The written notice of the charge against him read: THE KING OF THE JEWS.

²⁷ They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left.²⁹ Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days,³⁰ come down from the cross and save yourself!”³¹ In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself!”³² Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.” Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

³³ At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.³⁴ And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).

³⁵ When some of those standing near heard this, they said, “Listen, he’s calling Elijah.”

³⁶ Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to take him down,” he said.

³⁷ With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

³⁸ The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.³⁹ And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!”