

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church!

Isaiah 53. The “Suffering Servant.” Arguably the most powerful prophecy pointing forward to the suffering of Christ in the Old Testament. It’s like Isaiah was there when it happened, understood what was going on, and put inspired pen to scroll to alert the whole world to what God was going to do with his Servant. How could he know? How could he be so dead-center accurate, writing 700 years before the Christ was crucified?

Isaiah 53 (and the end of 52, our text for this evening), stands as the greatest miracle and testimony of divine inspiration in the whole of the Scriptures. How could Isaiah have known all that he did? This is a text to stand in awe of, and at whose feet we would be wise to learn.

So as you listen to Isaiah graphically describe the amends-making sacrifice of Christ, as your heart is moved by the familiar phrased, pay careful attention to the very first verses of chapter 53: “who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?” Before he details the suffering, death, and ultimate victory of the Lord’s Anointed, Isaiah asks his reader: do you believe this? Who around you believes this? Who have you told? Who have you revealed this message to?

Isaiah 53 begins with a call to spread the word concerning the atoning death of Jesus. Who has believed the message—our message? Answer: not nearly enough people! Too many people think that they have either done enough to earn their salvation and sleep at night on a mattress of pride and under the sheets of self-delusion with a pillow of ignorance for their head. And too many people think that the sins of their past will forever bar them from a blessed future, heaven, and eternity. These people live their lives under the dark cloud of believing God is a stern judge looking for a reason to damn them to hell forever—or make their life now a hell for the living. And then there are those who believe this is all there is; that eternity is a fairy tale and God an invention of primitive man, looking for an easy answer to the impossibly difficult questions of the soul, how everything came to exist, and the meaning (if any) of this thing we call life. Who has believed our message? Not nearly enough! To whom has the arm of the Lord—Jesus—been revealed? Not nearly enough!

More than just a miraculous passage on the suffering of Christ, this passage, Isaiah 53, is a call—a plea and a command—for mission. To tell others the good news of the Suffering Servant, Jesus Christ our Lord!

God bless your time in worship this evening.

-Pastor Duncan

Rev. Duncan McLellan, Pastor

www.zlcb.org
Office Phone: 412-221-4776

Service of the Word

The Prelude

Announcements

(please stand)

Opening Hymn: Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

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The Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

The Absolution

The Prayers

Pastor: ...Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

The Reading: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. As many were astonished at you—his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—so shall he sprinkle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand.

Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For 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, and no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But 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. All we like sheep have gone astray—we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? And they made his grave with the wicked—and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. 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. Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God**

Sermon Hymn: Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing 421

Sermon

The Offering

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Pastor: Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **Amen!**

The Recessional: Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing 584

The Postlude

† *Service Participants* †

Pastor:	Rev. Duncan McLellan
Organist:	Sandra Quinlan
Elders:	Peter Fisher & Rob Oelschlager
Acolyte	Elder
Ushers:	Josh Gielarowski, Dale Miller, Barb & Wayne Oechslein Ross Chilcott, Sam Dragan, Dan Harris & Chuch LaJeunesse
Altar Guild:	Janet, Marian & Molly Oelschlager