

Further Reflection on Christ's Death:

*Why did Christ's death have to be painful and miserable?**

Answer: Death—the death of those created, body and soul, in God's image—is the "wages of sin" (Rom. 6:23). Human death, as God's justly deserved curse on our sin, is deeply unnatural (as human beings were created to live in undisturbed fellowship with God). Especially as death involves the dissolution of soul and body, it is inevitably more or less painful and miserable; there is no human death that is not to some degree painful and miserable. This, I think, is a key point to be kept in mind. For the salvation of sinners, it was necessary that Christ, the eternal Son of God, humble himself by becoming a man and that in his state of humiliation, which continued from his birth until his resurrection, he share fully in the conditions of fallen humanity and our sin-cursed world, without himself personally being a sinner. Specifically, to atone for our sins (Mark 10:45; 1 Peter 2:24) it was necessary that he "die for our sins" (1 Cor. 15:3). And so, his death was bound to be painful and miserable. *(From opc.org)

Worshipping in the Glory of The Cross

Our celebration of events around Easter must always begin with the sacrificial purpose of Christ's coming to earth. He did not come to earth to start a political or military revolution, or take up the sword to bring an immediate judgment of all evil in our day, or to make a name for Himself as a human leader. He came to earth to glorify God His Father, and to serve His Father's will by dying for the sins of His people, thereby purchasing the church for Himself with the price of His blood. It is for this sacrificial and saving work that Christ was "ordained as the Lamb from the foundation of the world" (1 Peter 1:20).

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GOOD FRIDAY

April 3, 2026



Luke 23:47 - Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!"

Matthew 27:54 - When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

GOD GATHERS HIS PEOPLE

Welcome, Announcements & Prelude

Silent Reflection

Salutation and Call to Worship

* Opening Hymn

Tree

Throned Upon The Awful

250 Trinity Hymnal verses 1-3)

- 1 Throned upon the awful tree, King of grief, I watch with thee.
Darkness veils thine anguished face: none its lines of woe can trace:
none can tell what pangs unknown hold thee silent and alone.
- 2 Silent through those three dread hours, wrestling with the evil pow'rs,
left alone with human sin, gloom around thee and within,
till th'appointed time is nigh, till the Lamb of God may die.
- 3 Hark, that cry that peals aloud upward through the whelming cloud!
Thou, the Father's only Son, thou, his own Anointed One,
thou dost ask him — can it be? — "Why hast thou forsaken me?" **

* Invocation (concluding with the Lord's Prayer)

God's Law

Acts 17:30-34 (p 1102 pew Bible)

