

**“Remembering His Sacrifice”
A Sermon in Scripture and Song**

Call to worship: Lk. 22:14-20

“And when the hour had come He reclined at the table, and the apostles with Him. And He said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I shall never again eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He said, “Take this and share it among yourselves; for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine from now on until the kingdom of God comes.” And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.” (Luke 22:14–20)

Prayer:

This weekend is Memorial Day weekend; and tomorrow is Memorial Day. This day has been appointed as a time to remember those who lost their lives in military service to our country. It is fitting that we remember such men and women, since they made the ultimate sacrifice in giving their lives for our freedom and for the freedom of others.

In a similar way, we might say that the first day of the week is a memorial day for us as Christians. Each Lord’s Day we gather to remember the sacrifice that Jesus made by giving His life to free us from sin. As we gather to break bread, we do so in fulfillment of the command Jesus gave to His disciples at the last supper, “This do in remembrance of me.”

Today in our sermon in song we’ll be remembering His sacrifice. We might say that there are two aspects of this remembrance:

The first is the recalling to mind of what has happened in the past—mentally recalling the facts about Jesus as recorded in the gospels.

But in biblical thought “remembering” is far more. It is bringing into the present what Jesus’ sacrifice has accomplished for us. So let us today “remember His sacrifice.”

#383 Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross (v. 1,3)

Let us remember where He died

The gospel writers make special note of the place where Jesus died.

*“And they *brought Him to the place Golgotha, which is translated, Place of a Skull.” (Mark 15:22, NASB)*

The gospel writers explain that the meaning of Golgotha as “place of a skull.”

There are places in the limestone around Jerusalem that still have the ominous

appearance of a skull. Such a place was not only a symbol of what happened there, since the skull was a symbol of death; but also it would serve to instill fear in the hearts of those who thought of this place.

As the Bible text was translated into Latin the translators chose to translate the skull as “Calvariae” which comes into English as Thus many of our songs speak of what happened on Calvary.

#375 *Oh, the depth and the riches (v. 1,2)*

Let us remember how He died

“*When I think His agony...*” It is hard for us to imagine the immense suffering of execution on a cross. For a long time realistic images of the cross were rare. In more recent times movie productions like the Passion of Christ have given us a more realistic picture of what crucifixion looked like.

But what do we have in our experience that really brings home the suffering of the cross? Our gilded crosses can never capture the shame and reproach of dying this cruel death as a criminal nor can our white crosses accurately depict the bloody slaughter that crucifixion was. These ideas are best captured this hymn about the “rugged.”

#313 *The old rugged cross #313 (v. 1)*

When we think of the horror and suffering of the cross, we also need to remember...

Let us remember why He died

Because He loved us

Often at the funeral services of those who’ve fallen in battle the words are spoken, “*Greater love has no man than this, than that he lay down his life for His friends.*” That is true.

But of course those words were first spoken by the Savior himself who predicted his own death on the cross as a manifestation of His great love for mankind. Paul writes:

“*...walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.*”

(Ephesians 5:2)

#382 *Why did my savior come to earth (v. 1,2)*

In order to preserve God’s justice

Paul explains in Romans 3 that a just God cannot pass over sin and allow it to go unpunished. God found in the cross a means not only of satisfying His justice, but also justifying the guilty sinner. He would allow His son to die in our place.

“*But we do see Him who has been made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.*” (Hebrews 2:9)

#349 *Ten Thousand Angels (v. 1,2,3,4, and then the chorus)*

To redeem us and set us free from sin

One of the words used to describe the purpose of Jesus' death is redemption. Paul speaks of it in Romans 3:

"being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;" (Romans 3:24)

It is the paying of a ransom to set someone free from slavery; the ransom price of our redemption was the life of Jesus given in sacrifice—the shedding of His blood.

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace," (Ephesians 1:7)

#376 He paid a debt (v. 1,2)

When we why Jesus died, we can only offer praise to Him for His great sacrifice.

#337 Hallelujah! What a Savior (v. 1,2,3,4)

Lord's supper

And now we come to that special memorial for which we gather each week. The churches of Christ of the first century were instructed to gather each first day of the week to break bread in remembrance of Jesus just as He had commanded His disciples. Regrettably the church at Corinth began to misuse this time of remembrance, allowing it to degenerate into an inconsiderate and self-serving meal. Perhaps one blessing however that comes out of their wrong is Paul's beautiful explanation of what the Lord's Supper is all about. His correction of the Corinthians enlightens us:

"For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In 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." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup." (1 Corinthians 11:23–28)

But now let us also remember that He is no longer dead

"Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel," (2 Timothy 2:8)

#344 Low in the Grave He lay (v. 1,2,3)

Jesus' died to redeem us; but He was raised to rule over us. He is the promised king to rule on David's throne. He is king of kings and Lord of Lords. His present glory as reigning king is celebrated in the Revelation:

"And I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the

Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.” And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, “To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.” And the four living creatures kept saying, “Amen.” And the elders fell down and worshiped.”
(Revelation 5:11–14)

Let us take our place among them as we also sing:

#230 Worthy Art Thou (v. 1,3)

He is coming for His kingdom to deliver it up to God; but in the meantime we need to also remember...

Let us remember to live for Him

We would make a great mistake if we did not remember the demands that Jesus’ sacrifice makes on our lives.

Surely such a sacrifice should fill each of us with love for the Lord.

#359 I love the Lord (v. 1,2)

To remember that He died for us is also to remember that each of us should humble ourselves before him:

#315 When I survey the cross (v. 1,2)

To remember that He died for us is also to remember our obligation to give back to him..

#354 I gave my life for thee (v. 1,2,3,4)

Invitation

As Americans we should be truly grateful for those men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for us. But if can gratefully acknowledge those who gave “the last measure of devotion,” how much more should we gratefully acknowledge the sacrifice of the sinless son of God? Only His blood can take our sins away. Will you come to Him?

#904 Have you been to Jesus (v. 1,2,3,4)