

“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”
Lent and Holy Week Meditations, 2023
Zion Lutheran Church, Ridgeville Corners, Ohio

For Lent and Holy Week this year at Zion Lutheran we will reflect on the many meanings and teachings from Scripture about our Lord Jesus being, and having the title, “The Lamb of God.” Throughout the Old Testament it is clear that God would atone for all of humanity’s sins through a sacrifice He would choose. The Old Testament animal sacrifices pointed to this final saving sacrifice. The prophets foretold of the human who would be this sacrifice. The Gospels clearly identify Jesus as this sacrifice and the New Testament epistles give teachings that Jesus as the Lamb of God gives us forgiveness, life and salvation. Finally in Revelation, Jesus is honored and praised as the Lamb of God.

Wednesday, March 22, “Jesus’ Suffering is the Fulfillment to Bring Us Peace”

For our fifth and sixth Wednesday in our Lent meditations we consider Isaiah’s prophecy in 52:13-53:12 and the person and work of our Lord Jesus, the Lamb of God given for us. This passage in Isaiah is one of four “servant Songs.” In an introduction to the “Servant Songs” Professor Reed Lessing says,

Isaiah was inspired to prophesy about coming people and events that Yahweh will employ to bring about salvation for the world. The prophet envisioned one Servant in particular who will set people free. All who are captive to sin can relate to the two pressing questions that face Israel, especially those who will be exiled in Babylon: (1) Does enslavement mean that the captor has triumphed over Yahweh? (2) Does bondage mean that our sin is unforgivable—that Yahweh is not able to redeem us from it?

For the Babylonian captives, God’s answer to the first question will first come in the person of Cyrus (44:28; 45:1). He will be Yahweh’s means to defeat Babylon, humiliate its deities (Isaiah 46–47), and allow God’s people to return home. For all sinners, the answer to both questions will come in the person of the Suffering Servant. He will be Yahweh’s means of setting us free from iniquity, death, and Satan. This Servant will not just redeem Israel, but will also bring Yahweh’s salvation to the ends of the earth (42:1, 6; 49:6; 52:15; cf. also, e.g., 45:22; 52:10). He will lead the new exodus into the new creation, which will be his people’s home for eternity.¹

¹ R. Reed Lessing, *Isaiah 40–55*, ed. Dean O. Wenhe, Concordia Commentary (Saint Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2011), 76–77.

I. The “Person” and “work” of the Lamb of God (Christology)

“What Would the LORD’s Servant, the Sacrifice for Sin, Be Like?”

_____ is Jesus? What is He like?

_____ did Jesus do? (and still does!)

These are questions the people asked during Jesus’ ministry.

Examples: The crowds asked why the Son of Man should die if the Christ is forever in John 12:34. The Ethiopian eunuch asked who the Lamb was in Acts 8:34.

II. The Servant is _____ .

He does the will of _____. (Isaiah 52:13-53:4)

This is not worldly wisdom that says one should be powerful over others, instead

this is divine wisdom that says one should _____ for undeserving people: sinners.

His appearance will be _____ beyond looking human.

Yet he will save many _____. Rulers will be _____, though He can save them and all the people. Many will not understand.

No one believes the Servant. He is very _____. He is not beautiful or popular to people in ways of the world.

He is even _____ by us, sinners. Yet He is _____ to us.

III. The Servant will be _____ to His _____ to save us. (Matthew 26:36-46)

He did not defend Himself, but was obedient even to a death on the cross. (Acts 8; and see Phil. 2:5-11)

Lamb of God, You takes away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You takes away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You takes away the sin of the world; grant us peace.