

LK 23:26 Now as they led Him away, they laid hold of a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, who was coming from the country, and on him they laid the cross that he might bear it after Jesus.

23:27 And a great multitude of the people followed Him, and women who also mourned and lamented Him.

23:28 But Jesus, turning to them, said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.

23:29 "For indeed the days are coming in which they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, wombs that never bore, and breasts which never nursed!'

23:30 "Then they will begin 'to say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!" '

23:31 "For if they do these things in the green wood, what will be done in the dry?"

23:32 There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death.

23:33 And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left.

23:34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.

23:35 And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God."

23:36 The soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine,

23:37 and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself."

23:38 And an inscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

23:39 Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us."

23:40 But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation?"

23:41 "And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong."

23:42 Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

23:43 And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

23:44 Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour.

23:45 Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two.

23:46 And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.' " Having said this, He breathed His last.

23:47 So when the centurion saw what had happened, he glorified God, saying, "Certainly

this was a righteous Man!"

23:48 And the whole crowd who came together to that sight, seeing what had been done, beat their breasts and returned.

23:49 But all His acquaintances, and the women who followed Him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

March 29, 2026 Luke 23:26–49

Sermon Title: "They Do Not Know What They Are Doing"

[From Today's Sermon]

This week is Holy Week. Today's passage describes the events surrounding the Lord's crucifixion.

Time and again, the people mocked, ridiculed, and scorned the Lord, saying,

"If you are the Christ of God, the Chosen One, save yourself." Yet it was God's will that Jesus be crucified, choosing not to save Himself but to take away the sins of the world. But the people did not understand this. Nevertheless, for our sake, the Lord prayed thus and became the Lamb of God.

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

Hymn: "Were You There Too?"

Were You There Too?

When the Lord was nailed to the cross

Oh, somehow my heart trembles

Were you there too?

Did you hear it too?

The sound of the nails being driven in

Oh, somehow my heart trembles

Did you hear it too?

Did you watch it too?

The blood flowing down

Oh, somehow my heart trembles

Were you watching too?

Did you notice too?

That the sun suddenly faded?

Oh, my heart trembles
Did you notice too?
Did you go to the tomb too?
To bury the Lord?
Oh, my heart trembles
Did you go to the tomb too?

Good morning, everyone. We have finally entered Holy Week. The weather is changing, and the sun is now shining down with a heat that makes us sweat. Today, I pray that we may reflect deeply on the Lord's Passion through His Word.

23:26 As they were leading Jesus away, they seized a man from Cyrene named Simon, who was coming in from the country, and laid the cross on him to carry behind Jesus.

23:27 A large crowd followed him, including a group of women who were mourning and wailing.

23:28 Jesus turned to the women and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children.

23:29 For the days are coming when people will say, 'Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.'

23:30 Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us!'

23:31 For if this is done to green trees, what will happen to dry ones?"

23:32 Now two other criminals were led away with Jesus to be executed.

This is a quotation from Isaiah chapter 54.

54:1 "Rejoice, O barren woman who has not borne children; break forth and cry aloud, you who have never been in labor; for the children of the desolate woman are more numerous than those of the married woman," says the Lord.

54:2 "Enlarge the place of your tent, and let the curtains of your dwellings be stretched out; do not hold back; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes.

54:3 For you will spread out to the right and to the left, and your descendants will inherit the nations and settle the desolate cities.

54:4 Do not fear, for you will not be put to shame; do not be dismayed, for you will not be humiliated. You will forget the shame of your youth and no longer remember the reproach of your widowhood.

54:5 Your Maker is your Husband; his name is the Lord of Hosts. Your Redeemer is the Holy

One of Israel, who is called the God of the whole earth.

54:6 “The Lord has called you a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, yet how could he forsake the wife of his youth?” says your God.

54:7 “For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with great compassion I will gather you,” says the

54:8 “Though I hid my face from you for a moment in the heat of my anger, I will have compassion on you with everlasting love,” says the Lord, your Redeemer.

God sent Jesus to the cross out of love. Suffering is coming. There is no salvation anywhere. But “your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel, the God of the whole earth.” Here is grace.

23:33 When they came to the place called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there, and the criminals as well, one on his right and one on his left.

23:34 Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” The soldiers divided his clothes by casting lots.

23:35 The people stood watching. The rulers also scoffed, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.”

23:36 The soldiers also mocked him. Coming up to him, they offered him wine mixed with vinegar and said,

23:37 “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself.”

23:38 Above him was a sign that read, “This is the King of the Jews.”

23:39 One of the criminals who had been crucified continued to taunt Jesus, saying, “Aren’t you the Christ? Then save yourself—and us too!”

The people relentlessly mocked, ridiculed, and reviled Jesus. And they all said, “Save yourself!” Is this the line of reasoning: “How can someone so powerless—who cannot even save himself—possibly have the power to save us?” If they were asking, “If he saved so many people,” it suggests they had witnessed, to some extent, Jesus’s glorious and powerful works. Yet people focus on the outcome. If there is a death of punishment there, if there is a death as a sinner, then surely that life was a failure, and there is nothing there worthy of honor. Everyone thinks this way and looks down on and mocks Jesus.

Yet Jesus went there of His own accord. Because He surrendered His life as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, not a single act of His was in vain, and His journey certainly did not end in defeat. But people are shallow; their minds cannot fathom God’s

profound plan and His heart of deep grace.

The whole world is united in a chorus of “Save yourself!”—believing that only then will they be deemed righteous. They are frantic, willing to trample others underfoot if it means saving themselves, and they care nothing for others as they charge headlong toward “saving themselves.”

“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

Jesus’ words resonate deeply within me.

23:39 One of the criminals who had been crucified kept hurling insults at Jesus, saying, “Aren’t you the Messiah? Then save yourself—and us too!”

23:40 But the other criminal rebuked him, saying, “Don’t you fear God, since you are under the same sentence?”

23:41 We are receiving the due reward for our deeds; it is only right that we should suffer this. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

23:42 And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

23:43 Jesus said to him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

People strive to live. Unaware that they are sinners who must die, they are desperate to live and save themselves, but there is no salvation in that.

“You are under the same sentence, yet you do not fear God?”

23:41 We are each receiving the due reward for what we have done; it is only right that we should suffer this. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

We are sinners deserving of death. Yet Jesus, though He has done nothing wrong, is here on the cross. He is here as salvation for me, who deserve to die. As a sinner deserving of death, I have no other way but to cling to this grace. I fear God, confess my sins, and—at the very moment I am about to die for those sins—gaze intently upon this One who stood beside me and died in my place, remembering that He died for my sins, and with gratitude confess Him as my Savior. To those who do so, Jesus’s words are given.

23:43 Jesus said to him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

23:44 It was now about noon, and the sun's light faded; the whole land was in darkness until three in the afternoon.

23:45 And the curtain of the sanctuary was torn in two.

23:46 Then Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

23:47 When the centurion saw what had happened, he praised God and said, "Truly this man was righteous."

23:48 When the crowds who had gathered to witness this saw what had happened, they all went home beating their breasts.

23:49 All those who knew Jesus, and the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

How do we gaze upon the Lord's cross? We look up at the Lord's cross while beating our breasts for our sins.

Hymn: "Were You There Too?"

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Were you there too?

Did you hear it too?

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To bury the Lord?

Oh, my heart trembles

Did you go to the tomb too?

◇Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank You for today's worship service. The people mocked Jesus, saying, "If you are the Messiah from God, the Chosen One, save yourself." Unaware that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, people look down on others and mock them, thinking only of their own gain, and are constantly focused on saving themselves even at the expense of others. Yet for such people, the Lord prayed, "Father, forgive them. They do not know what they are doing." Please lead all who are suffering into God's salvation and peace. Bless our families and the people in our community. Use us for Your work. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.