

April 3, 2026—Good Friday

It sounds as if the Prophet Isaiah was an eyewitness to the crucifixion. However, he lived 8 centuries before our Lord was crucified. The passage in the First Reading is called the Fourth Song of the Suffering Servant. It gives the meaning behind the Passion of St. John that we just read.

Isaiah wrote: “**Yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured**”. The intense physical sufferings of Jesus weren’t because of anything that He deserved or did wrong. He was taking upon Himself the punishment that our sins deserved. Isaiah continues, “**He was pierced for our offenses**”. His hands and feet were pierced by the nails hammered into them and His side by the soldier’s spear that was thrust even into His Heart, so that blood and water flowed forth. “**Upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, by his stripes we were healed.**” All the wounds of Jesus, such as the stripes or lashes from the brutal scourging at the pillar, healed us from the wounds of sin and the spiritual blindness that that comes with it. Jesus the true suffering servant atoned for the sins of the world including our own sins.

When we meditate upon the crucifix and all the sufferings of Jesus it can make us weep with sorrow. Especially because I know He endured them for me personally. Don’t think that Jesus was doing this for the mass of mankind; He did it for each of us personally. He knew my sins and yours and desired to atone for them all. In His divine mind and infinite love, He kept each of us in His Heart during the Passion.

We sometimes ponder the beauty and greatness of divine love in the Most Holy Trinity. The mutual love of the Heavenly Father for His Son and the Holy Spirit is beyond comprehension. It is total and perfect and unwavering. Theologians say that what we can know about God’s attributes, including His Love, is so little that we can hardly say we understand anything about it at all. Our finite love and understanding and wounded personality limit us when we try to understand Divine Love.

What would the divine love of the Most Holy Trinity look like in our world? If God could demonstrate divine love in a material universe, how would it appear to us? It would look like the crucifix! “**There is no greater love, than to lay down one’s life for his friends,**” Jesus said. The crucifix is the picture of Divine Love in human form. It doesn’t look pretty; it doesn’t look pleasant. It is the self-gift of the Son to the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit so that we might be restored to

God as His beloved children with the life that He wanted for us from the beginning of creation. Our heavenly Father sees us through the love of Jesus who gave Himself without counting the cost or expecting our gratitude. As we venerate the Holy Cross in a few minutes, one by one, let us give thanks to Jesus; for by His Holy Cross, He has redeemed the world!