

(Topics and Lead-in Below)

Crucifixion Hymn

TUNE: O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (PASSION CHORALE)

Luke 23:33-49

♩ = 72

C F C E F G7 C F6 G C E7 Am Am11 Am Am E sus E E7 Am

1. My heart was hard as i - ron. I tore in - to His hands.
 2. He claimed to be from heav - en. We rose and hung Him high.
 3. My God, I'll nev - er grasp it, This love I long de - nied.

Am Am G F Dm6 C Dm Dm6 C F6 G C E7 Am Am11 Am Am E sus E E7 Am

My soul was cold and emp - ty, A sea of self - ish plans.
 In rage I swung the ham - mer, Then stood to watch Him die.
 You rose in - to my dark - ness, The dawn of light and life.

Am Am7 Dm6 Dm7 Em Em7 F C6 G7 E C C Dm7 C C7 F M7 F6 A7 Dm9 Dm9 Dm Dm A

His love and gen - tle good - ness Were more than I could claim.
 I lis - tened in the dark - ness To hear some bit - ter cry.
 My Lord, I live to thank You! What words could be e - nough?

WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: Hans Leo Hassler; arr. by Johann Sebastian Bach

PASSION CHORALE
7.6.7.6.D.

Alt. Tune: AURELIA

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$\frac{D7}{F\#}$ G G sus $\frac{D}{F\#}$ $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{Am^6}{E}$ $\frac{G}{D}$ C⁶ D G C $\frac{E}{A}$ $\frac{C}{G}$ F⁶ G C

I joined the crowd of mock - ers And crowned Him with my shame.
 He prayed for our for - give - ness. The name He spoke was mine.
 Make all my grate - ful be - ing An end - less song of love!

TOPICS: Jesus' Suffering & Death; Lent-Easter

LEAD-IN: *God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* (Romans 5:8, NIV)

LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

Crucifixion

Some early historians credited the Persians with the first use of crucifixion, while others said it was a cruel practice the Romans picked up from various barbarous peoples they had conquered. The Greeks had used it--Alexander the Great crucified 2,000 people after the siege of Tyre.

The Romans originally considered it a slave's punishment. It was later extended to foreigners and robbers and those convicted of treason.

Crucifixion was designed to subject the victim to the greatest possible humiliation. For that reason corpses were sometimes crucified.

Some form of torture customarily preceded crucifixion, such as flogging, in order to start the blood flowing. The victim often had to carry his own crossbeam to the place of execution, which was intentionally very public. He was most often tied to the cross, sometimes nailed. Stretched and immobilized, the victim could find no relief from searing pain. Movement was excruciating. Not moving was torture. The suffering was intense and protracted. Death rarely came sooner than 36 hours (thus Pilate's surprise when Jesus was dead in only a few hours--another sign that Jesus had given up His own life). The final cause of death is uncertain, but gradual suffocation resulting from fatigue is most likely.

In 1968, the first skeleton identifiable as a victim of crucifixion was unearthed in Jerusalem. The two heel bones were still fastened together by a single iron nail.