

Musical Meditation for April 10

Good Friday

Bible Reading - Matthew 26:36-27:61

Music Selection: "At the Cross", by Randy and Terry Butler

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This arrangement by Garrett Parker, 2002

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Verse

I know a place, a wonderful place
Where accused and condemned Find mercy and grace
Where the wrongs we have done And the wrongs done to us
Were nailed there with Him There on the cross

1st chorus

At the cross, (at the cross) He died for our sin
At the cross, (at the cross) He gave us life again

Verse

2nd chorus

At the cross, (at the cross) You died for our sin
At the cross, (at the cross) You gave us life again

Thoughts

Today's musical selection is an arrangement of a "contemporary" (well, 27 years old now!) piece contemplating the crucifixion and its implications for us as Christians. This includes a rhythm accompaniment which might suggest Jesus' beating heart. It stops just before the end of the piece, which progresses to what could be interpreted as the liberation of Jesus' spirit. I think this is a very moving piece of music, I have played it live several times over the years in church services, maybe you'll remember it. There is a nice vocal version of this piece online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1tYGTp1pHeo>. The suggested associated Bible reading is relatively long but well worth reading, it bridges the events of Maundy Thursday into Good Friday. It reveals both the horrors and the ultimate glory of Good Friday.

For our prayers, consider the events of Good Friday -- the magnitude of Jesus' love and suffering, the awful pain and humiliation he bore for us, even to death. How can this fail to touch us, and inspire us, to follow in his footsteps and heed his message? We should also continue to pray for recovery of the increasing numbers of people worldwide affected by the coronavirus, with appreciation and support for the courageous workers who are selflessly laboring, at personal risk, to heal the sick and keep our society functioning, ensuring that basic needs for food and shelter are met on a continuing basis. And, finally, taking our personal concerns to God.