



God's Lamb

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? —Isaiah 53:4-8

When a nineteen-year-old driver swerved from the Fast Track lane, totaled my car, and broke my right arm and leg, the central legal question was, “Who’s going to pay?”

One day, I substitute taught at a special needs preschool classroom. There was a beautiful three-year-old boy there with a sweet smile and a way to make people love him, even without the ability to walk or talk, due to his severely limited physical and cognitive abilities. Sadly, the boy wasn’t born disabled. His health and future were destroyed when his drunken father kicked him down the stairs.

In a just world, who pays for that loss? What can repay an entire life robbed of vitality by a moment of rage?

“Count the cost,” is such a healthy admonition. But can we? Dollar amounts have been given for the devastation of World War 2 and the loss of 70+ million lives. Can we really pay that back? “No Fault Divorce” seeks to undo the legal ties between husband and wife, but who pays for the broken trust, the lost dreams, the broken homes, and disrupted upbringings that divorce entails?

All law codes, ancient and modern, tried to sort out the cost of sin. *Eye for eye, tooth for a tooth* (Exodus 21:24) gave a stark but exact statement of equity in judgment, demanding graphically exact payback and setting limits to human retribution. But “an eye for an eye leaves the whole world blind,” and there are limits to what legal justice can do. Law will never make the world right. The human cost of sin is inestimable.

And its spiritual cost is infinite. Can anything bridle human ambition or restrain our lust for what we want, no matter the cost? The desire for love and “good will to men” is universal, but it persistently evades us.

An ancient, universal practice addressed this deficit in human justice. The entire ancient world—not just the Israelis—practiced animal sacrifice. And it wasn’t just for food. Sacrifice was central to worship everywhere on earth. Blood drenched our dealings with the divine, almost like a reflexive defense against the death we know we deserve. Somebody has to pay. But who? And how?

Cultures throughout time and around the globe sacrificed animals to gain leverage with the gods. Central to life in the Bible was raising lambs to sacrifice for sin. Scripture perfectly summarizes the cost of evil when it says, *without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins* (Hebrews 9:22).

Late on the night before Passover, Jesus led His disciples across the Kidron Valley, east of the temple mount. They’d often made the trip to Gethsemane, so it was business as usual to Jesus’ disciples. Despite His many announcements, they had no clue of the significance of what was about to happen. But Jesus did. Only He understood the meaning of John the Baptist’s announcement early in His ministry. *Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!* (John 1:29b).

Jesus, God the Son and the Lamb of God, was preparing to pay the cost of all the horror and sadness that sin has wrought in every life, in every place and every age of this earth. Only the sinless life of the spotless Lamb of God was worthy to die as a sacrifice for all sin. Only the infinite worth of God’s eternal Son was sufficient to pay the cost of the rebellion of the only creature made in God’s image.

Jesus died for all sin on the cross. His cry, *It is finished* declares for all who believe in Him, “Paid in full.”

To the praise of His glory.

Prayer for Our Times

For our nation, ask God to ...

- spread the testimony of Jesus
- revive His Church worldwide
- bring spiritual renewal throughout America
- grant divine protection for our upcoming elections

For the Coronavirus pandemic, ask God to ...

- curb the spread of the virus
- heal the sick and afflicted
- comfort those who have lost loved ones
- use this pandemic to turn hearts to Christ around the world

Prayer for Our Church

Sunday (Church): Pray for Carolee Jefferson: Ministry Associate Systems and Information, to facilitate effective ministry through her technical expertise.

Monday (Home and Family): Pray for God to build your home. “Unless the Lord builds a house, those who build it labor in vain” (Psalm 127:1).

Tuesday (Job/School): Ask God for a world-wide revival of God’s Church that will bring the Biblical proclamation of Christ’s atonement to the ends of the earth.

Wednesday (Neighborhood and Community): Pray for those you know who serve in the military to know Christ and His love and show it to others. Seek God’s care and protection for them and their families.

Thursday (Our Nation): Ask for God’s protection for the upcoming elections, so the outcome honors Christ, and the results are definitive and uncontested.

Friday (The World): Ask God for genuine thanksgiving to fill our hearts, as we see and appreciate what God is doing in us, for us, and through us. Lord, give us eyes to see Him in all things.

Saturday (Praise and Rejoicing): Pray for a dynasty of faith in your home that will influence people to Christ for generations.

Prayer for Northpoint’s Leaders: Seek God’s power, protection, and leading in their lives and ministries.

1. **Our Pastors and Directors:** Tony Chute, Taylor Mendoza, Terilyn Brown, Steve Dahlgren, Tamene Menna, and Marti Wiegman.
2. **Our Lay Elders:** Tim East, Steve Flood, Mark Kiker, Vinoj Zechariah, and our new incoming elders.
3. **Our Church Staff:** Michelle Balga, Bob Brown, Colin Cordill, Megan Cordill, Zac Gutierrez, Carolee Jefferson, Amber McEwen, Mark Norland, Corie Saunders, Karen Sherwood, Dani Tiqui, Micah Valdez.

Prayer Record

Record specific prayers you have below. Note when and how God answers your prayers. It will help you to see that He really is paying attention.

Date	Request	Date	Answer

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. –Colossians 2:13-14