

Lent—Easter Worship Schedule

February 17..... ASH WEDNESDAY at 7 p.m.
*"He Was Born To Die,
 So I Could Be Born to New Life"*

February 21..... Sunday at 8 & 10:45 a.m.
*"He Was Betrayed, So I Might Know His Faithfulness;
 Arrested & Bound, So I Could be Rescued"*

February 24..... Wednesday at 7 p.m.
*"He Stood Trial Alone,
 So I Might Have an Advocate"*

February 28..... Sunday at 8 & 10:45 a.m.
*"He Was Wounded, So I Could Be Whole;
 Endured Mockery, So I Could Know Dignity and Joy"*

March 3..... Wednesday at 7 p.m.
*"He Was Condemned,
 So the Truth Could Set Me Free"*

March 7..... Sunday at 8 & 10:45 a.m.
*"He Was Crowned With Thorns,
 So I Might Crown Him With Praise"*

March 10..... Wednesday at 7 p.m.
*"He Was Nailed to the Cross,
 So I Might Escape Judgment"*

March 14..... Sunday at 8 & 10:45 a.m.
*"He Was Stretched Out Between Thieves,
 So I Could Know The Reach of His Love"*

March 17..... Wednesday at 7 p.m.
*"He Suffered Thirst,
 So I Can Drink Living Water"*

March 21..... Sunday at 8 & 10:45 a.m.
*"He Said, 'It Is Finished,'
 So I Could Begin My Walk of Faith"*

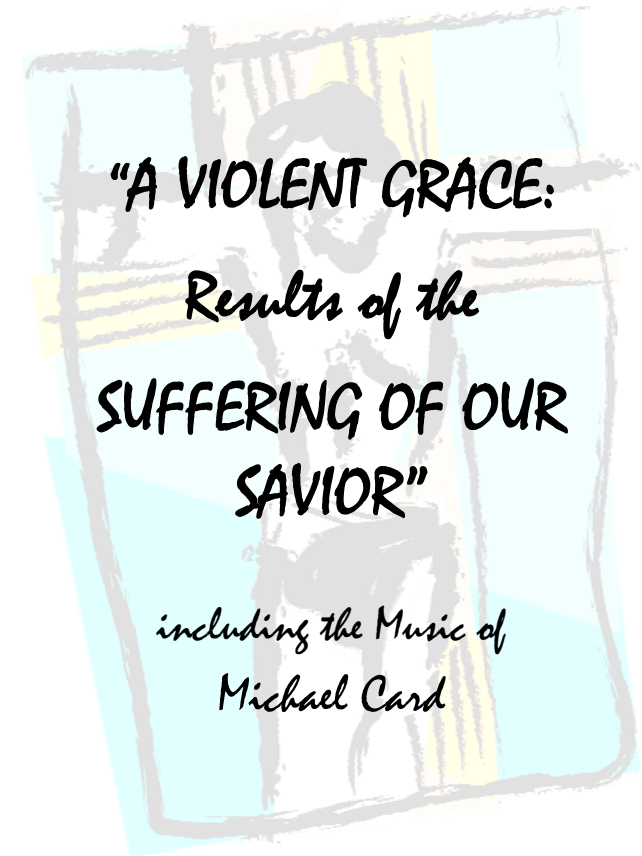
March 24..... Wednesday at 7 p.m.
*"He Was God's Lamb, Slain,
 So I Could Claim His Sacrifice As My Own"*

March 28..... PALM SUNDAY 8 & 10:45 a.m.
*"He Chose the Shame of Weakness,
 So I Could Know the Hope of Glory"*

April 1.... MAUNDY THURSDAY at 7 p.m. only
*"He Suffered Temptation,
 So I Can Experience Victory;
 and Shed His Blood,
 So I Can Be White As Snow"*

April 2..... GOOD FRIDAY at 8 p.m. only
*"His Heart Was Pierced,
 So Mine Could Be Made Whole;
 He Was Forsaken By the Father,
 So I Would Never be Rejected;
 He Died and Was Buried,
 So The Grave Could Not Hold Me"*

April 4..... EASTER SUNDAY 8 & 10:45 a.m.
*"He Rose Again,
 So I Might Experience Eternal Life;
 He Is Known By His Scars,
 So I Will Take Up My Cross and Follow Him"*



"A VIOLENT GRACE: Results of the SUFFERING OF OUR SAVIOR"

including the Music of
 Michael Card

Lent—Easter 2010

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
 23810 112th Avenue SE,
 Kent, Washington
 (253) 854-3240

Pastor D.F. Pacilli

Do you know . . .

. . . the acronym for "GRACE?"

G od's

R iches

A t

C hrist's

E xpense

That would be an easy way to explain His gift to us, wouldn't it? So would simply pointing to . . .

The Cross . . .

. . . Although the cross seems to have disappeared from most of the Christian art and music of our own time. Worse, it has disappeared from many hearts and minds as well. Fewer and fewer churches have crosses hanging behind or in front of the pulpit. Fewer songs sing of the cross. Fewer sermons celebrate it.

Particularly . . .

. . . in American Christianity, the cross has become objectionable. Well-known pastors avoid referring to it in their

sermons and their TV programs because it is "too negative." Some say that it is "dysfunctional" to feel we owe something to someone who sacrifices anything, much less himself, for us. Others are put off by the violence the cross portrays. No question about it—the blood and gore and pain of the crucifixion would certainly get an "R" rating on the screen. Given the problem of violence in our society, why glamorize such things? Shouldn't we focus instead on the gentler side of the Gospel?

. . . Yes, it sure is easier to preach and write about the positives—peace, prosperity, and easy grace. To a society obsessed with abundance and acceptance, the good news minus the cross (which is no good news at all) does seem to keep the coffers and pews full.

But, says Paul . . .

. . . **"I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified"** (1 Corinthians 2:2).

So what shall we do?

. . . If we are to maintain and pass on Biblical Christianity to future generations, we must refocus our attention on the

cross and not just as an idle, passing glance. We must live it and celebrate it. At a time when more Christians in the world are dying for Christ than at any time in the history of the faith, we must stand for Him and even be ready to die for the Crucified One.

. . . 50 years ago, when some underground Christians in the Church in Germany were asking many of the same questions about the cross, a man who would become a martyr asked, *"how could something become cheap which cost God everything?"* Dietrich Bonhoeffer gave his life to remind us that the cross of Christ must forever remain the center of our faith. *From this greatest of negatives flow all the positives of our new life in Christ:*

- from conflict, PEACE;
- from pain, HEALING; and
- from death, LIFE.

. . . The cross proves that you and I are valued and loved beyond our wildest imaginings—so much, in fact, that we were died for. This Lent, may we see the cross for what it is: on the one hand, the scene of the violent execution of the Son of God, and, on the other, the Source of His LIMITLESS GRACE

Before our Wednesday evening services, bring a friend with you and join us for our free soup and bread suppers at 6 p.m. in our Fellowship Hall.