

Victory over sin and death

¹⁰ Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,
and though the LORD makes^[c] his life an offering for sin,
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,
and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.

¹¹ After he has suffered,
he will see the light of life^[d] and be satisfied;^[e]
by his knowledge^[f] my righteous servant will justify many,
and he will bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,^[g]
and he will divide the spoils with the strong,^[h]
because he poured out his life unto death,
and was numbered with the transgressors.

For he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

Remember the beautiful stained-glass window in St Andrew's? At the top, in a circular pane, is a lamb holding a flag. The lamb who was slain for the sin of the world is now victorious, for he has triumphed over sin and death! Our passage this morning gives us many reasons to praise and adore Jesus, the triumphant lamb:

V10 - Praise God for His eternal plan and Sovereign power to bring about the greatest good (the salvation of many) through the worst evil (the unjust murder of the righteous Son)

v11 – Praise God that Jesus has been raised from the dead: he saw light after death, and so we can be sure that the righteous one has justified (made right with God) many because by his death he bears our iniquity - pays the penalty for our sin

v12 – Praise God that Jesus is the victorious conquering hero! Exalted now on high, he rules this world and gives the spoils of his victory over death to all his people – eternal life with Christ in heaven is ours through faith in Christ alone.

Remember how this song began – Isaiah 52v13 “See, my servant will act wisely, he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted” – and listen to how the apostle Paul echoes Isaiah in the famous Philippians 2v9-11, describing Jesus who humbled himself to death on a cross:

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

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in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Praise God for Jesus, the triumphant lamb who was slain!