



But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Isaiah 53:5

History gives us a long record of horrific events where people suffered greatly because of sin: the conquistador conquers over native civilizations, centuries of slavery and slave trade, the Armenian genocide, the Rape of Nanking, the Holocaust, and more. Dating back to the fall of humanity in the Garden of Eden, death has been the ultimate result of sin.

Truth is, history proves the same about us. Even more horrifying is the thought that we have caused the suffering of others. We personally have given scars to countless people physically, mentally, and spiritually. Not only have we hurt others, we have hurt our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the most. We pierced him. We crushed him. We caused him to die on the cross. We put the Son of God through hell. Our sin killed the one who came down to save us from sin, death, and the devil. We deserve to shoulder the suffering of our Savior. Instead, all our sin, all our guilt, all our punishment was put on his shoulders, and he suffered hell for us. What a loving God! A God who loves us so much he sent his only Son, fully God and fully human, to die for our sins so that we may have eternal life in heaven with him.

The theme of the month has been 'Scars.' Holy Week is a perfect time to reflect on the scars Jesus received in our place. Through the pain of his suffering and death, we have peace. Just as he rose from the dead, we too shall rise to live with him eternally in heaven.

Our teenage years are often a time to learn about and form our own identity. What better identity can we have than one that is found in Christ? Because Jesus forgave us for the scars we placed on him, we also forgive people for the scars they have placed on us, and we seek forgiveness from those whom we have hurt. Let us live with the scars of Jesus in mind, the scars he received for us and for the entire world.

Prayer: Lord, during this Holy Week, help me remember and be thankful to you for the suffering and hell you went through so that I may have eternal life. Through your scars, the scars caused by my sin are healed; through your resurrection, I have hope and life with you forever. Thank you for that peace that nothing can overcome. Amen.