

SUNDAY - June 28, 2026

Rediscovering the Grandeur and Wonder of the Cross

SERMON SUMMARY:

The cross is the center of history and the invitation to every disciple. Jesus calls His followers not only to receive His sacrifice but to take up their own cross and follow Him. At Calvary He refused relief, willingly endured the full weight of sin out of love, and fulfilled centuries of prophecy, proving that God's plan of redemption was unfolding exactly as promised. When He cried from Psalm 22, He revealed that the Good Shepherd was laying down His life for His sheep.

The torn veil declared that through Christ, everyone now has direct access to God. His resurrection transformed despair into hope, highlighted by the angel's gracious words, "and Peter," reminding us that failure is never the final word. Forgiven people become sent people, called to proclaim the gospel to the world. As we remember Christ through communion, we celebrate that our sin has been removed, our relationship with God restored, and our lives commissioned to bear witness to His saving grace.

SCRIPTURE:

1 Corinthians 2:8, Philippians 2:10-11, Hebrews 10:29, Matthew 16:24-25, 2 Corinthians 5:18-20, Mark 15:24-29, Hebrews 10:19-20, 1 Corinthians 1:18-21, Mark 16:16, 1 Corinthians 3:9

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What specific actions did Simon of Cyrene take when he was compelled to carry the cross, and what details does Mark include about his identity?
2. How does the sermon describe the statistical improbability of Jesus fulfilling Old Testament prophecies about the crucifixion?
3. What two responses do people have when unexpected burdens (like Simon's cross) are placed on them, according to the sermon?
4. Why did Jesus refuse the wine mixed with myrrh offered to him at Golgotha, and what does this reveal about his purpose in suffering?
5. The temple veil tearing "from top to bottom" is linked to Hebrews 10:19-20. How does this event redefine access to God for believers?
6. The angel specifically mentions Peter in Mark 16:7 despite Peter's denial of Jesus. What does this detail communicate about grace and restoration?
7. The cross can become "background noise" in daily life. What practical step could you take this week to reawaken your awe for Jesus' sacrifice?
8. Simon's cross was an unplanned assignment. Is there a responsibility or hardship in your life right now that feels like an unexpected burden? How might you choose to "bear it" rather than begrudge it?
9. The torn veil means believers can approach God "boldly" (Hebrews 4:16). What habit or mindset keeps you from drawing near to God regularly, and how could you change that?
10. The women came to the tomb to "anoint" Jesus' body. What costly act of service (time, resources, vulnerability) could you offer to someone in your church or community this month?

11. The sermon says, “Love, not nails, held [Jesus] there.” When has someone’s costly love for you impacted your choices? How could you mirror that kind of love in a relationship this week?
12. The angel’s message included Peter specifically. Who in your life needs to hear “and [their name]” as a reminder of God’s grace after failure? How will you reach out to them?