

## "THE LAMB REVEALS THE FORGIVING SAVIOR"

{John 1:29}

Trinity Presbyterian Church March 20, 2008 Maundy Thursday Meditation

In Genesis 22 we read the moving story of God testing Abraham's faith when he commanded him to...

*"Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much to the land of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will point out to you!"*

May I remind you that Isaac was a miracle son promised to Sarah and Abraham when they were senior citizens--long past having children; therefore, his birth was miraculous to them.

Abraham's heart must've been incredibly heavy as he did exactly as God had commanded him.

When they reached the place for the burnt offering, Isaac asked his father...

*"We have wood and the fire, but where is the lamb for the sacrifice?"*

*"God will provide a lamb, my son,' Abraham answered."*

You remember the story of how Abraham built an altar, placed the wood on it, then tied up his son, Isaac and laid him on the altar over the wood. And, just as he was about to plunge the knife into his son, the Lord shouted to him from heaven...

*"Abraham! Abraham! Lay down the knife...! Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by the horns in a bush. So he took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering on the altar in place of his son. Abraham names the place, 'The Lord Will Provide!'"*

### JESUS, THE LAMB OF GOD

The Bible tells us that we all are sinners--helpless. We are incapable of saving ourselves from our sins, and the payment for our sin is death--separation from God for eternity! But, all is not hopeless!

The Bible speaks of the gift of God that is available to all sinners--the gift of His one and only Son.

The Apostle Paul wrote of this gift...

*"When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Now, no one is likely to die for a good person, though someone might be willing to die for a person who is especially good. BUT GOD SHOWED HIS GREAT LOVE FOR US BY SENDING CHRIST TO DIE FOR US WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS! And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood*

*of Christ, He will certainly save us from God's judgment..." {Romans 5:6-9}*

Think of it—

...the wages of our sin is death

...but...God provided the lamb...that offers us life!

John introduced Jesus to his disciples...***"Look! There is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"***

...He laid on His own Son our iniquities/sins

...He provided the sacrificial lamb and paid the price

required

The Lamb of God reveals the forgiving Savior—who from the cross cried, ***"Father, forgive them!"***

God provided the Lamb—His one and only Son!

***"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life!"***