

## Bermudian Church of the Brethren

**WEDNESDAY'S WORD** – a midweek thought from Pastor Larry M. Dentler  
to share a word of inspiration ... encouragement ... challenge ... a smile ... in the middle of your week  
February 14 in the year of our Lord 2018 - #728

*Ash Wednesday – Valentine's Day – What Do They Have In Common? Love!*

## Thorns

The season of Lent begins today. 40 days (not including Sundays) that leads us to Resurrection (Easter) Sunday. With roots as early as the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, Lent is a period of reflecting upon the suffering of our Lord for us. I believe you can't really celebrate Easter if you've not remembered the cost of our redemption! Interestingly Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day this year. How appropriate! For there is no greater expression of love than what the Lord showed us in His suffering on our behalf!

***“There is no greater love than this—that a man should lay down his life for his friends.”*** John 15:13 Phillips

And Easter falls on April Fool's Day this year. How appropriate! For Resurrection Day celebrates how God made a fool out of Satan in the resurrection of Christ!

***“In this way God took away Satan's power to accuse you of sin, and God openly displayed to the whole world Christ's triumph at the cross where your sins were all taken away.”*** Colossians 2:15 LB

At Bermudian our Lenten study is, ***“Life Among The Thorns,”*** and we'll remember and reflect upon the deep meaning of the Crown of Thorns that was placed upon our Savior's head. One of the passion hymns that reflects on the Thorns is, ***“O Sacred Head Now Wounded.”*** Attributed to Bernard of Clairvaux (1091-1153), one of the most influential Christians of the Middle Ages. He moved among, counseled, and settled disputes among kings and popes, yet remained a simple man of faith with no regard for popularity or prestige. The hymn is derived from his long seven section poem that calls us to consider our crucified Lord.

“The text of the hymn compels us to gaze at the cross until the depth of God's love overwhelms us. Bernard's hymn pictures God's love, not as an abstract theological statement, but as a profoundly personal and awesome vision of the suffering Christ.”

William J. & Randy Petersen in *The One Year Book of Hymns*, © 1995, Tyndale

On this Ash Wednesday / Valentine's Day I invite you to read/sing the hymn and reflect upon the love of Christ for you. You may be broken, raw, lonely, ashamed, imperfect ... but you are so deeply loved! Included here are the three common verses used in most hymnals and one lesser known verse.

*O sacred Head now wounded, With grief and shame weighed down, Now scornfully surrounded,  
With thorns Thine only crown; How pale Thou art with anguish, With sore abuse and scorn!  
How does that visage languish, Which once was bright as morn!*

*What Thou my Lord hast suffered, Was all for sinners' gain, Mine, mine was the transgression,  
But Thine the deadly pain; Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve Thy place; Look on me with  
Thy favor, Vouchsafe me to Thy grace.*

*What language shall I borrow, To thank thee dearest Friend, For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity  
without end? O make me Thine forever, And should I fainting be, Lord let me never, never,  
outlive my love to thee.*

*My burden in Thy Passion, Lord, Thou hast borne for me, For it was my transgression, Which  
brought this woe on Thee. I cast me down before Thee, Wrath were my rightful lot; have mercy,  
I implore Thee; Redeemer, spurn me not!*

Public domain. Based on Medieval Latin poem attributed to Bernard of Clairvaux. Music by Hans Leo Hassler;  
harmonized by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Remembering the Thorns! And His love! Pastor Larry <><