

St Margaret of Antioch

Isaiah 53, 4 – 6

Surely He has borne our griefs
And carried our sorrows;
Yet we esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten by God, and afflicted.

But He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,
And by His stripes we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray;
We have turned, every one, to his own way;
And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Margaret of Antioch speaks

I have always lived near Antioch. Not the great city with the same name that sits on the crossroads of the ancient trade routes, but the one in Pisidia. It is a bit of a frontier city with a strong garrison. It also has a lot of people from different races and religions. For me though, its real claim to fame is that it was visited several times by Paul on his preaching journeys; he founded the church here. I was adopted by one of the women from the church, and she who taught me about Jesus. I dedicated my life to Jesus, vowing never to marry. Little did I know where this would eventually lead.

My life at Antioch will soon be over, because I am sure that I will soon be killed - like so many Christians before me. By refusing to marry the Roman governor, and refusing to renounce being a Christian, he has put me on trial and had me tortured. I am not sure how I have endured it, but through all the pain and troubles though I have felt Jesus with me. And I know that what I am going through is nothing compared to what he suffered – suffered for me, and everyone else. He died taking my sin onto himself.



Martyrdom of St Margaret of Antioch

Barocci Federico

Prayer

Loving God, I am beginning to realize how much you love us. Your son, Jesus, was humble and obedient. He fulfilled your will for Him by becoming human and suffering with us and for us. I ask you for the desire to become more humble so that my own life might also bear witness to you. I want to use the small sufferings I have in this world to give you glory.



Seiger Koder