

## **Good Friday, April 7, 2023**

Recommended reading: pp. 98-102, "Fear" (excerpt)

At the beginning of chapter four, Leslie Alexander and Michelle Alexander provide context for the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis and of the public response: "Nationwide, police officers are rarely arrested or charged when they kill, and Black people are significantly more likely to be killed by the police than white people. Public attention to this issue had been growing since 2014, when Officer Darren Wilson shot and killed an unarmed Black teenager named Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri... Two years later, in Falcon Heights, less than ten miles from where Floyd was killed, a thirty-two-year-old Black man named Philando Castile was shot and killed during a traffic stop... And just two months before Floyd's death, a twenty-six-year-old Black woman named Breonna Taylor was killed in her Louisville, Kentucky, apartment when white plainclothes officers, searching for evidence against a suspected drug dealer, broke into her apartment in the middle of the night with a battering ram and sprayed her home with bullets.... In the weeks and months that followed, thousands upon thousands of protestors took to the streets...determined to make their voices heard and to show a united front against racism and police violence...while chanting slogans, carrying signs, and demanding justice."

*When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the Lord shall prosper. Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. (Isaiah 53:10b-12)*

Will we ever forget the image of a white police officer calmly and methodically crushing the life out of a defenseless Black man? The fact that even Black police officers can be formed by their training until they violently discriminate against Black citizens, as in the case of Tyre Nichols, means that we have a long way to go if we hope to achieve true impartial justice in our nation.

### **Prayer**

God of life, when will the suffering and death of your Son bring an end to the suffering and death of your children? How long must we look on injustice and cruelty and feel powerless against them? When will the righteousness that you desire become our lived reality? Have mercy upon us, O God; gather us around the cross of Christ and send us out to work until your kingdom comes. Amen.