



**("CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS" courtesy of Austin Avenue United Methodist Church, Waco, Texas)**

**Isaiah 52: 14**

**Just as there were many who were appalled at Him---his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man.**



# THE EMPTY CROSS

The rugged cross now empty standing beneath an ominous sky  
Where hours before a crucified Jesus, for our sins did bleed and die  
What now appears as shadows are memories time can't erase  
Bloodstains left by a wounded Savior who chose to die in our place.

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” words He did call out  
Humanities' sins heaped upon His shoulders to God He did loudly shout  
Being separated from His Father, was an agonizing price to pay  
Sin now judged; mission accomplished He departed without delay.

“Into Your hands I commit my Spirit,” the last precious words Christ said  
As an earthquake violently shook and taunting turned to fear instead  
Then darkness covered the entire land; from graves the dead set free  
The curtain in the temple was torn in two, an event for all to see.

Removed by Joseph, His disfigured body was handled with tender love  
Prior to Sabbath, was placed in a tomb out of reverence to God above  
The cross now empty, but full of God's promises---HOPE for you and me  
For in Jesus' blood, written on each name, FORGIVEN, you are set free.