
Good Friday Service: March 21, 2008

Preparation for Worship: Psalm 69

Piano: Audrey Caldwell

† *Closing Prayer*

Minister: Almighty and everlasting God, who willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary, help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's Passion that we may receive remission of sin and redemption everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

† *Hymn of Reflection: "Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended"*

Ah, holy Jesus, how hast Thou offended,
That man to judge Thee hath in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by Thine own rejected, O most afflicted.
Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon Thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone Thee. '
Twas I, Lord, Jesus, I it was denied Thee! I crucified Thee.
Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;
The slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered;
For man's atonement, while he nothing heedeth, God intercedeth.
For me, kind Jesus, was Thy incarnation,
Thy mortal sorrow, and Thy life's oblation;
Thy death of anguish and Thy bitter passion, For my salvation.
Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay Thee,
I do adore Thee, and will ever pray Thee,
Think on Thy pity and Thy love unswerving, Not my deserving.

***The Burial of Our Lord**

John 19:38-42

After the pastor reads of the burial of our Lord, he will leave the sanctuary down the center isle. The congregation is to follow him, departing silently in sober reflection on the death of our Lord and His burial in the grave on their behalf. They will gather again on the day of resurrection to celebrate His rising again from the dead and His ultimate victory over the grave.

† *The Call to Worship*

Pastor James Grant

Lord, open our lips
And our mouth shall proclaim your praise
Blessed be the name of the Lord our God,
Who redeems us from sin and death.
For us and for our salvation, Christ became
obedient unto death, even death on a cross.
Blessed be the name of the Lord!

Philippians 2:8

† *Corporate Prayer*

Congregation

Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family, for which our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

† *Hymn of Reflection*

Psalm 22

My God, my God, O why have You Forsaken me? O why
Are You so far from giving help and from my growning cry?

By day and night my God, I call; Your answer still delays.
And yet You are the Holy One Who dwells in Isr'el's praise.

My strength is only broken clay; my mouth and tongue are dry,
For in the very dust of death You there make me to lie.

For see how dogs encircle me! On every side there stands
A brotherhood of cruelty; they pierce my feet and hands.

My bones are plain for me to count; men see me and they stare.
My clothes among them they divide, and gamble for their share.

Now hurry, O my strength, to help! Do not be far, O Lord!
But snatch my soul from raging dogs, and spare me from the sword.

From lion's mouth and oxen's horns O save me; hear my prayer!
And to my brethren in the church Your name I will declare.

Old Testament Lesson:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Thanks be to God!

Hymn of Reflection: "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"

Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, See Him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ by man rejected; Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!
'Tis the long expected prophet, David's Son, yet David's Lord;
By his Son God now has spoken: 'Tis the true and faithful Word.

Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning, Was there ever grief like His?
Friends through fear His cause disowning, Foes insulting his distress:
Many hands were raised to wound Him, None would interpose to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him Was the stroke that Justice gave.

Ye who think of sin but lightly, Nor suppose the evil great,
Here may view its nature rightly, Here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the Sacrifice appointed! See Who bears the awful load!
'Tis the Word, the Lord's Anointed, Son of Man, and Son of God.

Here we have a firm foundation, Here the refuge of the lost.
Christ the Rock of our salvation, His the Name of which we boast.
Lamb of God for sinners wounded! Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded Who on Him their hope have built.

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to St. John

Reading: John 18:1-27 (Betrayal, Arrest, and Trial of Jesus)

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!

Reading: John 18:28-40 (Jesus before Pilate)

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 to me Thy grace.

Reading: John 19:1-24 (The Crucifixion of Jesus)

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.

Reading: John 19:25-37 (The Death of Jesus)

My Savior, be Thou near me when death is at my door;
Then let Thy presence cheer me, forsake me nevermore!
When soul and body languish, oh, leave me not alone,
But take away mine anguish by virtue of Thine own!

Proclamation of the Word

Pastor James Grant

The Crucifixion of Christ
Luke 23:26-56

The following REPROACHES are the words of the Lord against His people, the Church, to which the congregation replies with a plea for mercy. Please kneel if you are able.

P Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended You? Answer Me. For I have raised you up out of the prison house of sin and death, and you have delivered up your Redeemer to be scourged. For I have redeemed you from the house of bondage, and you have nailed your Savior to the cross. O My people.

Micah 6:3-4

C Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, leave us not to bitter death. O Lord, have mercy.

P Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended You? Answer Me. For I have conquered all your foes, and you have given Me over and delivered Me to those who persecute Me. For I have fed you with My Word and refreshed you with living water, and you have given Me gall and vinegar to drink. O My people.

Jeremiah 2:6-7

C Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, allow us not to lose hope in the face of death and hell. O Lord, have mercy.

P Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended You? Answer Me. What more could I have done for My vineyard that I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? My people, is this how you thank your God? O My people.

Isaiah 5:2-4

C Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, keep us steadfast in the true faith. O Lord, have mercy.

† *Psalm of Confession*

Psalm 51

God, be merciful to me, on Thy grace I rest my plea;
Plenteous in compassion Thou, blot out my transgressions now;
Wash me, make me pure within, cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.

My transgressions I confess, grief and guilt my soul oppress;
I have sinned against Thy grace and provoked Thee to Thy face;
I confess Thy judgment just, speechless, I Thy mercy trust.

I am evil, born in sin; Thou desirest truth within.
Thou alone my Savior art, teach Thy wisdom to my heart;
Make me pure, Thy grace bestow, wash me whiter than the snow.

Broken, humbled to the dust by Thy wrath and judgment just,
Let my contrite heart rejoice and in gladness hear Thy voice;
From my sins O hide Thy face, blot them out in boundless grace.