

# PRAYERS AT THE CROSS

APRIL 7, 2023

7:00 P.M.

ALL GATHER IN SILENCE

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

*Isaiah 53:4*

Surely He has borne our griefs  
and carried our sorrows;  
yet we esteemed Him stricken,  
smitten by God, and afflicted.

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

\*HYMN 223 (vs. 1-2)

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.  
Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God;  
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

PRAYERS AT THE CROSS

*by Lee and Susan Naus Dengler*

SCRIPTURE AND NARRATION

*Luke 11:1b; Hebrews 2:17-18*

NARRATION AND SCRIPTURE

*Luke 23:33-34a*

THE FIRST WORD: *“Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”*

HYMN 226 (vs. 1-4)

*There in God’s Garden*

There in God’s garden stands the tree of Wisdom,  
Whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations:  
tree of all knowledge, tree of all compassion, tree of all beauty.

Its name is Jesus, name that says, “Our Savior!”

There on Its branches see the scars of suffering;  
see there the tendrils of our human selfhood feed on Its lifeblood.

Thorns not Its own are tangled in Its foliage; our greed has starved It;  
our despite has choked It. Yet, look! It lives!  
Its grief has not destroyed It nor fire consumed It.

See how Its branches reach to us in welcome;  
hear what the Voice says, “Come to me, ye weary!”

Give Me your sickness; give Me all your sorrow; I will give blessing.”

NARRATION AND SCRIPTURE *Luke 23:34b-43*

THE SECOND WORD: *“Truly I tell you, today you will be with Me in paradise.”*

HYMN 227

*(Sing three times)*

*Jesus, Remember Me*

Jesus, remember me when You come into your kingdom.  
Jesus, remember me when You come into your kingdom.

NARRATION AND SCRIPTURE

*John 19:26-27*

THE THIRD WORD: *“Dear woman, here is your Son,” “Here is your mother”*

HYMN 215

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,  
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,  
when I was sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down  
beneath God’s righteous frown,

Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,  
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;

to God and to the Lamb who is the great I am,  
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;  
while millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on;  
and when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on;

and when from death I’m free, I’ll sing and joyful be,  
and through eternity, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on; and through eternity I’ll sing on.

NARRATION AND SCRIPTURE

*Mark 15:39*

THE FOURTH WORD: *“My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?”*

HYMN 216

*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,  
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;  
a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,  
from the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see  
the very dying form of One who suffered there for me;  
and from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess:  
the wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face;  
content to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,  
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

SCRIPTURE

1 Timothy 2:5-6a

NARRATION AND SCRIPTURE

John 19:28-29

THE FIFTH WORD: "I am thirsty."

HYMN 221

*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down;  
now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown;  
O sacred head, what glory, what bliss till now was thine!  
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.  
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, and grant to me 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.

NARRATION AND SCRIPTURE

John 19:30

THE SIXTH WORD: "It is finished"

HYMN 223 (vs. 3-4)

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

See, from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down;  
did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?  
Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

NARRATION AND SCRIPTURE

Luke 23:46

THE SEVENTH WORD: "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit."

ANTHEM

A Lenten Hymn  
Chancel Choir

Robert Lau

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray;  
teach us, with You, to morn our sins, and close by You stay.  
As You with Satan did contend and did the victory win.  
O give us strength in You to fight, in You to conquer sin, in You to conquer sin.  
Ah, Holy Jesus, how hast Thou offended,  
that we to judge Thee have in hate pretended?  
By foes derided, by Thine own rejected.  
O most afflicted. I crucified You, O Lord, my God,  
O Lord, my God, O Lord, my God, my King!  
Abide with us, that so this life of suffering over past,  
an Easter of unending joy, we may attain, we may attain,  
an Easter joy attain at last!

EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLES AND DRAPING THE CROSS

ALL DEPART IN SILENCE

✦ Narration and Scripture readings by Eric Schwartz, Gracy Thomas,  
Phil Johnson, and Rev. Dr. E. Jones Doughton, Pastor  
✦ Ben Clifton, Director of Music Ministries

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MESQUITE

## Good Friday



The Church of the Holy Sepulcher is built over the traditional site of Calvary. This worship space exists above the traditional space where they crucified Christ. Today we see this space with candles, precious metals, and beautiful works of art. On That Day so many years ago, this site saw great ugliness. As you behold a site of Crucifixion, remember that the glory of Resurrection will come.

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