

PRAYERS AT THE CROSS

APRIL 3, 2026
7:00 P.M.

ALL GATHER IN SILENCE

VOLUNTARY *Adagio in G Minor* Tomaso Albinoni
Remo Giazotto

*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

PRAYERS AT THE CROSS
Scriptural Account

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 (sung 3x) 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!

(continued)

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 166 *Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days* Lord,

who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,
teach us with You to mourn our sins, and close by You stay.

As You with Satan did contend and did the victory win,
O give us strength to persevere, in You to conquer sin.

And through these days of penitence, and through this Passion-tide,
yes, evermore in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us, till when this life of suffering shall be past,
an Easter of unending joy, we may attain at last.

NARRATION AND SCRIPTURE *Luke 23:46*

THE SEVENTH WORD: *“Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.”*

ANTHEM *Ave verum Corpus* W.A. Mozart
Chancel Choir

Latin
Ave, verum corpus natum
de Maria Virgine:
vere passum, immolatum

in cruce pro homine:
cuius latus perforatum
fluxit aqua et sanguine:
esto nobis praegustatum,
in mortis examine.

English
Hail the true body, born
of the Virgin Mary:
You who truly suffered
and were sacrificed
on the cross for the sake of man.
From whose pierced flank
flowed water and blood:
Be a foretaste for us

EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLES AND DRAPING THE CROSS

ALL DEPART IN SILENCE

✦ Narration and Scripture readings by Eric Schwartz, Roger Foltz,
Meg GarverHamilton, Phil Johnson, and Rev. Dr. E. Jones Doughton, Pastor
✦ Ryoji Shimpo, Director of Music Ministries/Organist



As one climbs down the stairs from Golgatha, one sees these three mosaics. We see the Descent from the Cross, The Preparation of the Body, and the Burial of Jesus. You are invited to reflect during this service and for the days to follow.



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 place 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 the site of Crucifixion, remember that the glory of Resurrection will come.

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