

GOOD FRIDAY 29 March 2024

Gospel Invitation-from Zephaniah 1:7, 14-15, 3:1, 12, 16-17a

- Pastor 1: Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is near; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated His guests.
- Pastor 2: The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness.
- Pastor 1: Woe to her who is rebellious and defiled!
- Pastor 2: But I will leave in your midst a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the Lord.
- Pastor 1: Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save.

Choral Anthem-"When Gabriel's Awful Trump Shall Sound" from Southern Hymns

When Gabriel's awful trump shall sound, And rend the rocks, convulse the ground, And give to time her utmost bound, Ye dead arise to judgement.

See lightnings flash and thunders roll. See earth wrapped up like parchment scroll. Comets blaze, sinners raise, dread amaze, Horrors seize the guilty sons of Adam's race Unsaved from sin by Jesus.

Text: The Southern Harmony, 1854; Music: MISSISSIPPI, Ananias Davisson, 1820, arr. Virgil Thomson, 1984.

Call to Worship-from Isaiah 53:2-5

Pastor: He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him, and no beauty that we should desire Him.

All: He was despised and rejected by men.

Pastor: He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces.

- All: He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.
- Pastor: Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

All: But He was wounded for our transgressions.

Pastor: He was crushed for our iniquities.

All: Upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace.

Pastor: And with His stripes we are healed.

Congregational Hymn-O Sacred Head, Now Wounded



Text: Bernard of Clairvaux, 12th C. tr. Paul Gerhardt, 1656; James W. Alexander, 1830; Music: PASSION CHORALE, Hans Leo Hassler, 1601, arr. J.S. Bach, 1729.

Congregational Hymn-Stricken, Smitten, And Afflicted



Text: Thomas Kelly, 1804; Music: O MEIN JESU, ICH MUSS STERBEN, Geistliche Volkslieder, 1850.

Scripture Reading—Luke 22:1-6

Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called the Passover. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to put Him to death, for they feared the people. Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve. He went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers how he might betray Him to them. And they were glad and agreed to give him money. So he consented and sought an opportunity to betray Him to them in the absence of a crowd.

Choral Anthem—From Deep Distress

From deep distress and troubled thoughts To Thee my God, I raise my cries: If Thou severely mark our faults No flesh can stand before Thine eyes.

But Thou hast built Thy throne of grace, Free to dispense Thy pardons, there, That sinners may approach Thy face In hope and love as well as fear.

Great is His love and large His grace Through the redemption of His Son; He turns our feet from sinful ways And pardons what our hands have done.

Text: based on Psalm 130, Isaac Watts, 1719; Music: BOURBON, Freeman Lewis, 1825, arr. Alice Parker, 1999.

Scripture Reading—Matthew 26:36-46

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and He said to His disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." And taking with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, He began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then He said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with Me." And going a little farther He fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will." And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And He said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again, for the second time, He went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, Your will be done." And again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So, leaving them again, He went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. Then He came to the disciples and said to them, "Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, My betrayer is at hand."

Choral Anthem—When Jesus Wept

When Jesus wept, the falling tear In mercy flowed beyond all bound; When Jesus groaned a trembling fear Seized all the guilty world around.

Text: The New England Psalm Singer, 1770; Music: WHEN JESUS WEPT, William Billings, 1770, arr. Peter Paul Olejar, 2010.

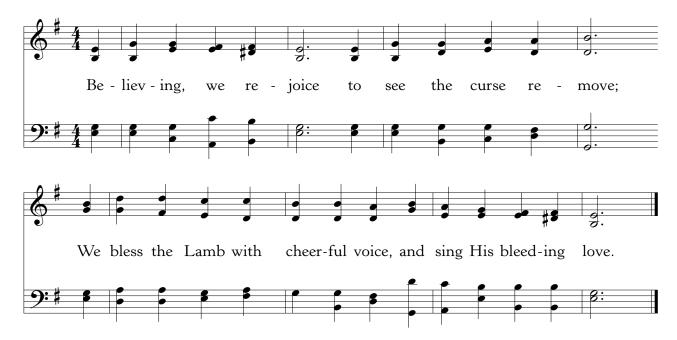
Reading of the Word—Hebrews 11:32-40

³²And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— ³⁸of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

³⁹ And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Pastor:This is the Word of the Lord.All:Thanks be to God.

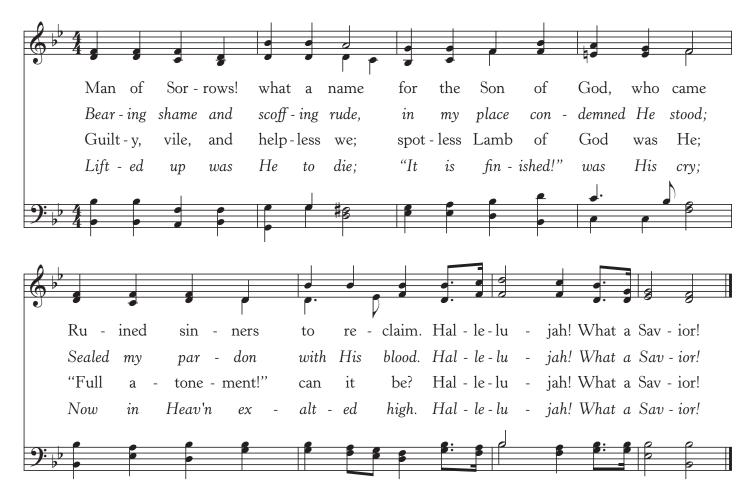
Sung Response—Not All The Blood Of Beasts, Vs. 5



Text: Isaac Watts, 1709, alt. 1961; Music: SOUTHWELL, William Damon, 1579.

-Pastor Emeritus, George Grant

Congregational Hymn—Man Of Sorrows!



Text and Music: Phillip P. Bliss, 1875.

Scripture Reading—Matthew 27:24-31

When Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered Him to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before Him. And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on His head and put a reed in His right hand. And kneeling before Him, they mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they spit on Him and took the reed and struck Him on the head. And when they had mocked Him, they stripped Him of the robe and put His own clothes on Him and led him away to crucify Him.

Choral Response—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.

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.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1707l; Music: WONDROUS CROSS, Paine Denson, 1932.

Scripture Reading—Luke 23:32-43

Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with Him. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on His right and one on His left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide His garments. And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at Him, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself, if He is the Christ of God, His Chosen One!" The soldiers also mocked Him, coming up and offering Him sour wine and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!" There was also an inscription over Him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at Him, saying, "Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!" But the other rebuked Him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into Your kingdom." And He said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in paradise."

Choral Anthem-"How Bright Is The Day" from Southern Hymns

How bright is the day when the Christian receives the sweet message to come, To rise to the mansions of glory and be there forever at home.

The angels stand ready and waiting, the moment the spirit is gone, To carry it upward to heaven and welcome it safely at home.

Then let us go onward rejoicing till Jesus invites us to come, To share in His glorious kingdom and rest in His bosom at home.

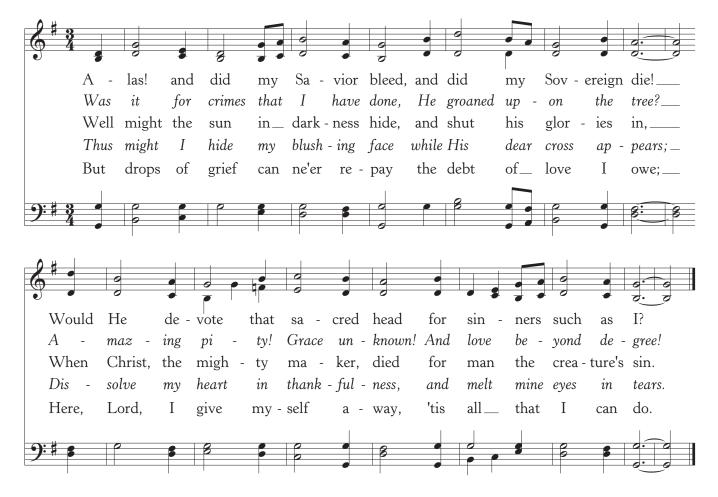
Text: S.B. Sawyer, 1859; Music: SAWYER'S EXIT, John Massengale, 1859, arr. Virgil Thomson, 1984.

Scripture Reading-Mark 15:33-39, 42-46

And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?" And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, He is calling Elijah." And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to Him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take Him down." And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed His last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood facing Him, saw that in this way He breathed His last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate was surprised to hear that He should have already died. And summoning the centurion, he asked him whether He was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that He was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph. And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking Him down, wrapped Him in the linen shroud and laid Him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.

Congregational Hymn-Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed



Text: Isaac Watts, 1707; Music: MARTYRDOM, Hugh Wilson, 1824.

Benediction—based on 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

Grace to you who have turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and now wait for His Son from Heaven, whom He raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. *Amen.*

Choral Response—All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name

All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall. Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all.

Let every kindred, every tribe, on this terrestrial ball, To Him all majesty ascribe and crown Him Lord of all.

O that, with yonder sacred throng, we at His feet may fall. We'll join the everlasting song and crown Him Lord of all.

Text: Edward Perronet, 1779, John Rippon, 1787; Music: GREEN STREET, J. J. Husband, c. 1809.

Tonight's service of readings, choral anthems, and congregational hymns was assembled to assist us in meditating on the story of Christ's betrayal, trial, crucifixion, and burial. Each portion of the story (taken from all four Gospels) is followed by a musical response from either the choir or the entire congregation.

Throughout the service, the choir will be presenting six works of American music, spanning three centuries and several different musical traditions. Though a bit younger than her ancestors in England, Germany, and Italy, the United States posses a rich heritage of sacred music that is sometimes overlooked.

After we are invited in with words from Zephaniah describing the coming judgement of the "day of the Lord," as well as God's promise of salvation," the choir will open the evening with the terrifying "When Gabriel's Awful Trump Shall Sound," a 19th century text and tune arranged by composer Virgil Thomson (1896-1989) for his 1984 collection *Southern Hymns*. The starkness of both the music and the poetry prepares us for the bleakness that accompanies the Good Friday narrative. Later, one bright moment in the dismal crucifixion scene (Jesus' gracious reply to the penitent thief "today you will be with Me in paradise") is paired with another of Thomson's settings, the joyful "How Bright Is The Day."

The choir responds to the story of Judas' plot to betray Jesus with *From Deep Distress*, a setting of the hymn tune BOURBON by Alice Parker (1925-2023). A Massachusetts native and longtime collaborator with conductor Robert Shaw, Parker sets the dark text of Psalm 130 ("Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord!") for unaccompanied chorus. Similarly, the choir responds to Jesus' anguish in the garden of Gethsemane with another piece of music from New England, William Billings' (1746-1800) *When Jesus Wept*. Originally a simple four-part round, the piece is presented here in a delicate modern setting with piano accompaniment.

The choir will also present two selections from *The Sacred Harp*, a venerable collection of hymns first published in 1844, intended for use in community singing schools in the rural South. These two pieces, *Wondrous Cross* and *All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name* (GREEN STREET) capture the duality of emotions that Good Friday evokes: both the reality of death, and the joyous anticipation of Christ's victory over the grave.

—Henry C. Haffner



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All Biblical quotes taken from the English Standard Version unless otherwise noted.