

DIVINE WORSHIP

The prelude is a sacred curtain dropped between the world and the sanctuary. During this time, be prayerful and reverent in preparation for the worship of our holy God in His sanctuary. (Please silence all phones and electronic devices.)

THE STRIKING OF THE HOUR

THE PRELUDE *Amazing Grace*
Members of the Fort Smith Symphony

THE GREETING

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP** Isaiah 53:4; 1 Peter 2:24a

Minister: Surely he has borne our griefs

Congregation: and carried our sorrows;

Minister: yet we esteemed him stricken,

Congregation: smitten by God, and afflicted.

Minister: He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

THE PRAYER

THE FIRST LESSON (TRIAL) John 18:28-19:15

THE SECOND LESSON (MOCKING) Matthew 27:24-34

THE PSALM (Unison) *Psalm 69 (verses 17-21)*

1. Hide not your face from my dis-tress, a speed-y an-swer send. Draw
2. My heart is bro-ken by re-proach, so I am in de-spair; I
5
near to me, my soul re-deem, from all my foes de-fend. Well
looked in vain for com-fort-ers, I found no pit-y there. They
9
known to you are my re-proach, dis-hon-or, and my shame; my
gave me bit-ter gall for food, and poi-soned what I ate. They
13
ad-ver-sar-ies, O my LORD, you know them all by name.
gave me vin-e-gar to drink, be-cause my thirst was great.

***THE THIRD LESSON (CRUCIFIXION)**

John 19:17-24

***THE PSALM** *Psalm 22 (verses 13-18)*

1. Like li-on jaws they o-pen wide, and roar to tear their prey. My
2. For see how dogs en-cir-cle me! On ev-'ry side there stands a
5
heart is wax, my bones un-knit, my life is poured a-way. My
bro-ther-hood of cru-el-ty; they pierce my feet and hands. My
9
strength is dried like shat-tered clay; my tongue sticks to my jaws; you
bones are plain for me to count; men see me and they stare. My
13
bring me to the dust of death, and there you lay me down.
clothes a-mong them they di-vide, and gam-ble for their share.

THE FOURTH LESSON (INSULTS)

Matthew 27:35-44

THE PSALM (Unison) *Psalm 22 (verses 4-8)*

1. Our fa-thers put their trust in you; from you sal-va-tion
2. All those who look at me will laugh and cast re-proach at
4
came. They begged you and you set them free; they were not put to shame. But
me. Their mouths they o-pen wide; they wag their heads in mock-er-y: "This
9
as for me, I am a worm and not a man at all. To
man has trust-ed in the LORD; let God re-demp-tion send. Now
13
men I am de-spised and base; their scorn-ings on me fall.
let his God de-liv-er him, for he de-lights in him."

THE FIFTH LESSON (DARKNESS)

Matthew 27:45-49

THE PSALM

Psalm 22 (verses 1-3)

1. My God, my God, O why have you for-sak-en me? O why are
5
you so far from sav-ing me and from my groan-ing cry? By
9
day and night, my God, I call; your an-swer still de-lays, and
13
yet you are the Ho-ly One who dwells in Is-rael's praise.

THE SIXTH LESSON (COMMITTAL)

Luke 23:46-49

THE SEVENTH LESSON (DEATH)

John 19:28-37

***THE PSALM (Unison)** *Psalm 31 (verses 1-5)*

1. In You, Lord, I take ref-uge; Ash-amed let me not be. Your
2. You are my rock and for-tress; For your sake lead and guide. Free
5
right-eous-ness e-ter-nal Ex-press by sav-ing me; In-
me from nets they've hid-den; My strong-hold You a-bide. I
9
cline your ear to hear me; With speed de-liv-er me. To
now com-mit my spir-it In-to Your out-stretched hand. I
13
me O be a strong rock A fort to res-cue me.
know You have re-deemed me, Lord God of truths that stand.

* = Please stand if able.

THE SERMON

Atoning Love
John 10:17-18 (Pew Bible, 896)

Dr. John Clayton

THE LITANY

Minister: O crucified Jesus, Son of the Father, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, eternal Word of God,

Congregation: we worship you.

Minister: O crucified Jesus, holy temple of God, dwelling place of the Most High, gate of heaven, embodied love,

Congregation: we worship you.

Minister: O crucified Jesus, sanctuary of justice and love, full of kindness, source of all faithfulness,

Congregation: we worship you.

Minister: O crucified Jesus, ruler of every believing heart, in you are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, in you dwells all the fullness of the Godhead,

Congregation: we worship you.

Minister: Jesus, Lamb of God,

Congregation: have mercy on us.

Minister: Jesus, bearer of our sins,

Congregation: have mercy on us.

Minister: Jesus, redeemer of the elect,

Congregation: grant us peace.

Minister: Almighty God, look with mercy on your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and to be given over to the hands of sinners and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Congregation: Amen.

THE HYMN OF REFLECTION (CHOIR) *Behold the Savior of Mankind*

***THE PASTORAL BENEDICTION** (Minister)

1 Peter 2:24

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

Congregation: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Covenant Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith

Welcome & Announcements

Seating: Please be courteous by moving toward the front of the sanctuary providing room in the back for those arriving late.

Restrooms: Restrooms are available at the East-end on the sanctuary level or downstairs at the East-end of the hallway. Please use the restrooms downstairs during the worship service.

Lessons and Psalms: Tonight's worship service is a Good Friday Lessons & Psalms service in which we hear the events of our Lord's suffering, death, and burial, and respond with prayer and song. In this service, we will have seven "lessons," or readings, from the Gospels and five psalms corresponding to the lessons. Each psalm we sing prophesies of the events recorded in the Gospels.

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need
(Hebrews 4:14-16).

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him...
(Hebrews 5:7-9).

Ministry Staff

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Covenant Presbyterian Church

Fort Smith, Arkansas



Good Friday, April 7, 2023

6:00 P.M.

“It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name,
O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night” (Psalm 92:1,2)

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