ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Good Friday • April 15, 2022

Please silence your electronic devices.

"By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Genesis 3:19

"The eye of him who sees me will behold me no more; while your eyes are on me, I shall be gone. As the cloud fades and vanishes so he who goes down to Sheol does not come up; he returns no more to his house, nor does his place know him anymore."

Job 7:8-10

"I am counted among those who go down to the pit; I am a man who has no strength, like one set loose among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, like those whom you remember no more, for they are cut off from your hand. You have put me in the depths of the pit, in the regions dark and deep...

"Do you work wonders for the dead? Do the departed rise up to praise you? Is your steadfast love declared in the grave, or your faithfulness in the bottomless pit? Are your wonders known in the darkness, or your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?"

Psalm 88:4-6, 10-12

"Where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!"

Psalm 139:8

HE: "Until the day breathes and the shadows flee, I will go away to the mountain of myrrh and the hill of frankincense..."

SHE: "My beloved has gone down to his garden to the beds of spices, I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine..."

Song of Songs 4:6; 6:2-3

CALL TO WORSHIP • Matthew 23:37

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!"



O the deep, deep love of Jesus, spread his praise from shore to shore. How he loveth, ever loveth, changeth never, nevermore. How he watches o'er his loved ones, died to call them all his own. How for them he intercedeth, watcheth o'er them from his throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, love of every love the best. 'Tis an ocean vast of blessing, 'tis a haven sweet of rest. O the deep, deep love of Jesus, 'tis a heaven of heavens to me. And it lifts me up to glory for it lifts me up to thee.

THE FIRST WORD FROM THE CROSS • Luke 23:33-34

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."

CONFESSION OF SIN & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

"Man Of Sorrows," Verses 1-3 (Text & Music: Phillip Bliss • Public Domain)

"Man of Sorrows," what a name for the Son of God who came ruined sinners to reclaim. Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Bearing shame and scoffing rude, in my place condemned he stood; sealed my pardon with his blood. Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Guilty, vile, and helpless we; spotless Lamb of God was he; "Full atonement!"—can it be? Hallelujah! What a Savior!

THE SECOND WORD FROM THE CROSS • Luke 23:39-43

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."

"Man Of Sorrows," Verses 4-5 Lifted up was he to die; "It is finished!" was his cry; now in Heav'n exalted high! Hallelujah! What a Savior!

When he comes, our glorious King, all his ransomed home to bring, then anew his song we'll sing: Hallelujah! What a Savior!

THE THIRD WORD FROM THE CROSS • John 19:26-27

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!"

THE LORD'S PRAYER • Matthew 6:9-13

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

THE FOURTH WORD FROM THE CROSS • Matthew 27:45-46

From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying... "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

(silence)

THE FIFTH WORD FROM THE CROSS • John 19:28-29

Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture) "I thirst." A jar full of sour wine was there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth.

(silence)

THE SIXTH WORD FROM THE CROSS • John 19:30

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished."

(antiphonal reading from Isaiah 53)

THE SEVENTH AND FINAL WORD FROM THE CROSS • Luke 23:45-46

The sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my Spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

(silence)

HOMILY • John 19:38-42

After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE AND PRAYER

(All who confess faith in Jesus Christ may partake of this Sacrament: baptized members of a congregation that proclaims the Gospel, who are at peace with God and with their brothers and sisters in Christ, and who seek God's grace to live more faithfully for their Lord and Savior in this world.)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION • 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

(Please come forward after the musicians. Grape juice is available for those who do not want wine. The cup with the ribbon contains gluten-free crackers.)



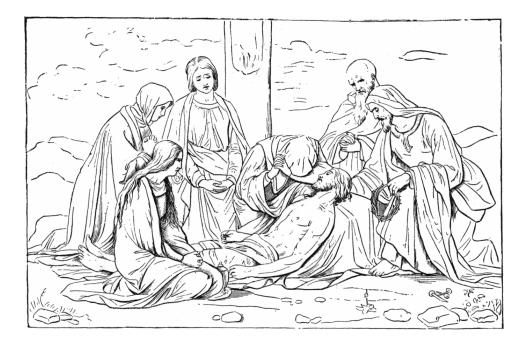
"The Stone" (Text: Sam Hargreaves, © RESOUNDworship.org • Music: Lowell Mason, Public Domain) Θ The stone roll ed is to seal the Θ grave the sold - iers stand Ο the guard the years to door; of Θ Θ the hearts of faith, hope, 13 θ cold as the dead as their tomb, Lord.

The tears of anger and regret, the cock has crowed, the traitor fled; disciples frightened and confused, where once was peace, now only dread.

Where can they go, where can they run? His words were true, eternal life; yet even Christ has felt death's sting, sin's curse extinguishing love's light.

We stand with them, with the bereaved, stand with the broken, torn and bruised; we hold our doubts, our tears, our pain, and, by our nails, hold to the truth.

There is a sun we cannot see, a resurrection yet to dawn, a hope that holds us through the night, a path that leads to Easter morn.



Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Printed songs are used by permission under CCLI license #11109756.