

I led you through the desert forty years, and fed you with manna:
I brought you through tribulation and temptation,
and gave you my body, the bread of heaven,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy.

What more could I have done for you that I have not done?
I planted you, my chosen and fairest vineyard,
I made you the branches of my vine:
but when I was thirsty, you gave me vinegar to drink
and pierced with a spear the side of your Savior,
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

O Lord, forgive us our sin.

I went before you in a pillar of cloud,
and you have led me to the judgment hall of Pilate.
I scourged your enemies and brought you to a land of freedom,
but you have scourged, mocked, and beaten me.
I gave you the water of salvation from the rock,
but you have given me gall and left me to thirst,
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord.

I gave you a royal scepter, and bestowed the keys to the kingdom,
but you have given me a crown of thorns.
I raised you on high with great power,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy.

I sent the Spirit of truth to guide you,
and you close your hearts to the Counselor.
I pray that all may be one in the Father and me,
but you continue to quarrel and divide.
I call you to go and bring forth fruit,
but you cast lots for my clothing,
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, forgive us our sins.

I came to you as the least of your brothers and sisters;
I was hungry and you gave me no food,
I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,
I was a stranger and you did not welcome me,
naked and you did not clothe me,
sick and in prison and you did not visit me,
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, God of love, have mercy upon us.

Choral Meditation "Throned upon the awful tree"

We Confess Our Sins:

(see Hymn #183)
Sam Murrell, baritone

**O Savior of the world,
who by your cross and precious blood has redeemed us:
Save us and help us, we humbly ask you, O Lord.
Forbid, O God, that we should forget, amid our earthly comforts,
the pains and mortal anguish that our Lord Jesus endured
for our salvation.**

**Grant us this day a true vision of all that he suffered,
in his betrayal, his lonely agony, his false trial,
his mocking and scourging, and the torture of death upon the cross.
As you have graciously given yourself utterly for us,
may we give ourselves entirely to you,
O Jesus Christ, our only Lord and Savior. *Silent Prayer. Amen.***

Hymn #179 (FIRST TUNE) "Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended"
The Epistle Reading: *1 Peter 2:19-25* Pastor Chris Smith
† *Psalms 69:1-21*

Save me, O God!

For the waters have come up to my neck.

I sink in deep mire,

Where there is no standing;

I have come into deep waters,

Where the floods overflow me.

I am weary with my crying;

My throat is dry;

My eyes fail

While I wait for my God.

Those who hate me without a cause

Are more than the hairs of my head;

They are mighty who would destroy me,

Being my enemies wrongfully;

Though I have stolen nothing,

I still must restore it.

O God, you know my folly;

And my guilt is not hidden from You.

Let not those who wait for you, O Lord GOD of hosts, be ashamed
because of me;

**Let not those who seek you be confounded because of me, O
God of Israel.**

Because for your sake I have borne reproach;

Shame has covered my face.

I have become a stranger to my brothers,

And an alien to my mother's children;

Because zeal for your house has eaten me up,

And the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.

When I wept and chastened my soul with fasting,

That became my reproach.

Good Friday Service

Friday, April 9, 2004

Preparation For Worship: *Psalm 69*

Organ - Mr. Bill Hoover

Please gather in silence for Worship



Choral Meditation "Jesus, I will ponder now" Sigismund von Birken, 1653
setting by Hugo Distler (1908-42)

Jesus, I will ponder now on Thy holy Passion;
With Thy Spirit me endow for such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith may the image cherish
Of Thy suff'ring, pain, and death that I may not perish.

Grant that I Thy Passion view with repentant grieving
Nor Thee crucified anew by unholy living.
How could I refuse to shun ev'ry sinful pleasure
Since for me God's only Son suffered without measure?

Grant that I may willingly bear with Thee my crosses,
Learning humbleness of Thee, peace mid pain and losses.
May I give Thee love for love! Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in heaven above sing Thy praise forever.

†Call to Worship Pastor Jeffrey J. Meyers

Pastor: The Lord be with you! *Ruth 2:4*

Congregation: **And also with you!**

Blessed be the name of the Lord our God,
Who redeems us from sin and death.

For us and for our salvation, Christ became obedient unto death,
even death on a cross. *Philippians 2:8*

Blessed be the name of the Lord!

†Hymn #178 "O sacred Head, now wounded" *Trinity Hymnal*

†Prayer

The Old Testament Lesson: *Genesis 3:1-24* Pastor Chris Smith

Hymn of Confession: #409 "Before thee, God, who knowest all"

Solemn Reproaches of the Cross

O my people, O my church, What have I done to you,
or in what have I offended you? Answer me.
I led you forth from the land of Egypt
and delivered you by the waters of baptism,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy on us.

I also made sackcloth my garment;

I became a byword to them.

Those who sit in the gate speak against me,

And I am the song of the drunkards.

But as for me, my prayer is to you, O LORD,

In the time of your favor;

O God, in the multitude of your mercy,

Hear me in the truth of your salvation.

Deliver me out of the mire,

And let me not sink;

Let me be delivered from those who hate me,

And out of the deep waters.

Let not the floodwater overflow me, nor let the deep swallow me up;

And let not the pit shut its mouth on me.

Hear me, O LORD, for your lovingkindness is good;

Turn to me according to the multitude of your tender mercies.

And do not hide your face from your servant, for I am in trouble;

Hear me speedily. Draw near to my soul, and redeem it;

Deliver me because of my enemies.

You know my reproach, my shame, and my dishonor;

My adversaries are all before you.

Reproach has broken my heart, and I am full of heaviness;

I looked for someone to take pity, but there was none;

And for comforters, but I found none.

They also gave me gall for my food,

And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

†Hymn #192 "Stricken, smitten, and afflicted" *Trinity Hymnal*

†The Gospel Lesson: *Matthew 27:1-56*

Sermon: **THE CROSS: SYMBOLISM, NOT SENTIMENTALISM** Pastor Jeff Meyers

Congregational Prayer

**Almighty God, look with mercy on your family
for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed
and 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. Amen.**

Choral Meditation

Christ, we do all adore Thee,

And we do praise Thee forever;

For on the holy cross hast Thou the world from sin redeemed.

Text: *Adoramus Te*, English version by Theodore Baker

Music: Theodore Dubois, 1866, from *The Seven Last Words of Christ*

†The Congregation Departs From the Sanctuary & Church in Silence