



# Good Friday

April 7, 2023 at 7:00 pm  
Paw Creek Presbyterian Church  
Paw Creek, North Carolina

## **Prelude**

arr. Thomas

Keesecker

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

## **Greeting**

Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Creator and  
the Lord  
Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

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.

**Blessed be the name of the Lord.**

## **\* Hymn 215**

*What Wondrous Love is This*

## **Prayer** *(in unison)*

**Almighty God, look with mercy on your children 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.**

**For He now lives and reigns with you and the Holy  
Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

## Readings from Scripture

### Isaiah 53 - *The Suffering Servant*

He was despised and rejected by others;  
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;  
and as one from whom others hide their faces  
he was despised, and we held him of no account.  
Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our  
diseases;  
yet we accounted him stricken,  
struck down by God, and afflicted.  
But he was wounded for our transgressions,  
crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,  
and by his bruises we are healed.

### Psalm 22 (*responsive*)

How shall I repay you, O LORD, for all the good things you  
have done for me?

**I will lift up the cup of salvation and call upon  
the name of the LORD.**

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? and are so  
far from my cry and from the words of my distress?

**O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not  
answer; by night as well, but I find no rest.**

Yet you are the Holy One, enthroned upon the praises of  
Israel.

**Our ancestors put their trust in you; they  
trusted, and you delivered them.**

They cried out to you and were delivered; they trusted in  
you and were not put to shame.

**But as for me, I am a worm and not a man,  
scorned by all and despised by the people.**

All who see me laugh me to scorn; they curl their lips and  
wag their heads, saying,

**He trusted in the LORD; let the LORD deliver him;  
let God rescue him, if God delights in him."**

## The Service of Shadows

## **The Shadow of Betrayal and Arrest** *Matthew* 26: 47-56

While Jesus was still speaking to the disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?" At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.  
**His mercy endures forever.**

### **The First Candle is Extinguished**

#### **Silence**

**Prayer** *Great heavenly God, in the Garden of Gethsemane your son felt the bitter kiss of a friend and the rough hands of the guards. We pray that we may never raise a hand against him or his little ones, and we lean on him for courage to resist temptation. Through the same Christ our Lord.*  
*Amen.*

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard outside the house of the High Priest. A servant-girl came to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before all of them, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man." After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you." Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know the man!" At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**His mercy endures forever.**

## **The Second Candle is Extinguished**

### **Silence**

#### **Prayer**

*Great heavenly God, in the courtyard Peter the Rock denied your son with words that stung more sharply than a sword. We pray that we may never fail in our loyalty, so that our words will always fortify your kingdom in this world. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## **The Shadow of Fearfulness**      *Matthew 27: 11-26*

Now Jesus stood before Pilate, the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." Now

the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**His mercy endures forever.**

### **The Third Candle is Extinguished**

#### **Silence**

#### **Prayer**

*Great heavenly God, before the governor your son was condemned by the crowd. We pray that we may never succumb to fear, and we turn to him to mold our words to eternal truth. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### **The Shadow of Mockery**

*Matthew 27: 27-31*

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**His mercy endures forever.**

#### **Silence**

### **The Fourth Candle is Extinguished**

**Prayer**      *Great heavenly God, at the court of Herod, an earthly king dared to mock and deride your anointed Messiah. We pray that our words will never lead others astray, and that you will use our hands only for the building of your kingdom. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**The Shadow of Crucifixion**      *Matthew 27: 32-44*

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**His mercy endures forever.**

**The Fifth Candle is Extinguished**

**Silence**

**Prayer**      *Great heavenly God, at the place of the skull, misguided people hung your son on a cross, and scorned his kingship, even as he prayed for their forgiveness. We pray that he will be the master of our hands and our words to keep them from evil purposes all our days. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## **Hymn**

*The Old Rugged Cross*

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,  
The emblem of suffering and shame,  
And I love that old cross where the dearest and  
best  
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
Till my trophies at last I lay down;  
And I'll cling to the old rugged cross,  
And exchange it some day for a crown.

O that old rugged cross, so despised by the  
world,  
Has a wondrous attraction for me;  
For the dear lamb of God left His glory above,  
To bear it to mark Calvary.

### **Refrain**

In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so  
divine,  
A wondrous beauty I see;  
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and  
died,  
To pardon and sanctify me.

### **Refrain**

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true,  
It's shame and reproach gladly bear;  
Then he'll call me some day to my home far  
away,  
Where His glory forever I'll share.

### **Refrain**



## **The Shadow of Death**

*Matthew 27: 45-56*

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**His mercy endures forever.**

## **The Sixth Candle is Extinguished**

### **Silence**

**Prayer** *Great heavenly God, in darkness your son was taken from this earth, his cry echoing throughout the land. We pray that when hope has deserted us and we feel most alone, that he will be our model of obedience and of strength. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## The Shadow of Burial

Matthew 27: 57-66

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can." So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**His mercy endures forever.**

### The Seventh Candle is Extinguished

#### Silence

#### Prayer

*Great heavenly God, your son was laid in a tomb where the desolation was earth's last word on his life. We pray that even when hope is gone, our hearts will know that your Word can never be silenced and that he will always speak again. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### Closing Music George Frederic Handel - Messiah

"Thy Rebuke Has Broken His Heart/Behold, and See"

### Dismissal

O Savior of the world. who by your cross and precious blood have redeemed us:

**Save us and help us, we humbly beseech you,  
O Lord.**

*We leave the Sanctuary in silence and in darkness, until we return on the third day. The Easter Sunday service begins at 11:00 am. All are welcome to join*

*us.*

## **Readers**

The Shadow of Betrayal and Arrest .....	Linda Riggins
The Shadow of Denial .....	Celia Gray
The Shadow of Fearfulness .....	John Riggins
The Shadow of Mockery .....	Debbie Taylor
The Shadow of Crucifixion .....	Barbara Ullem
The Shadow of Death .....	Larry Ramsey
The Shadow of Burial .....	Paul Bradley

Elliott Hipp, Pastor  
Mark Burleson, Pianist  
Andy Cumbow, Director of Music

## **Paw Creek Presbyterian Church**

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[pawcreekpc.org](http://pawcreekpc.org)