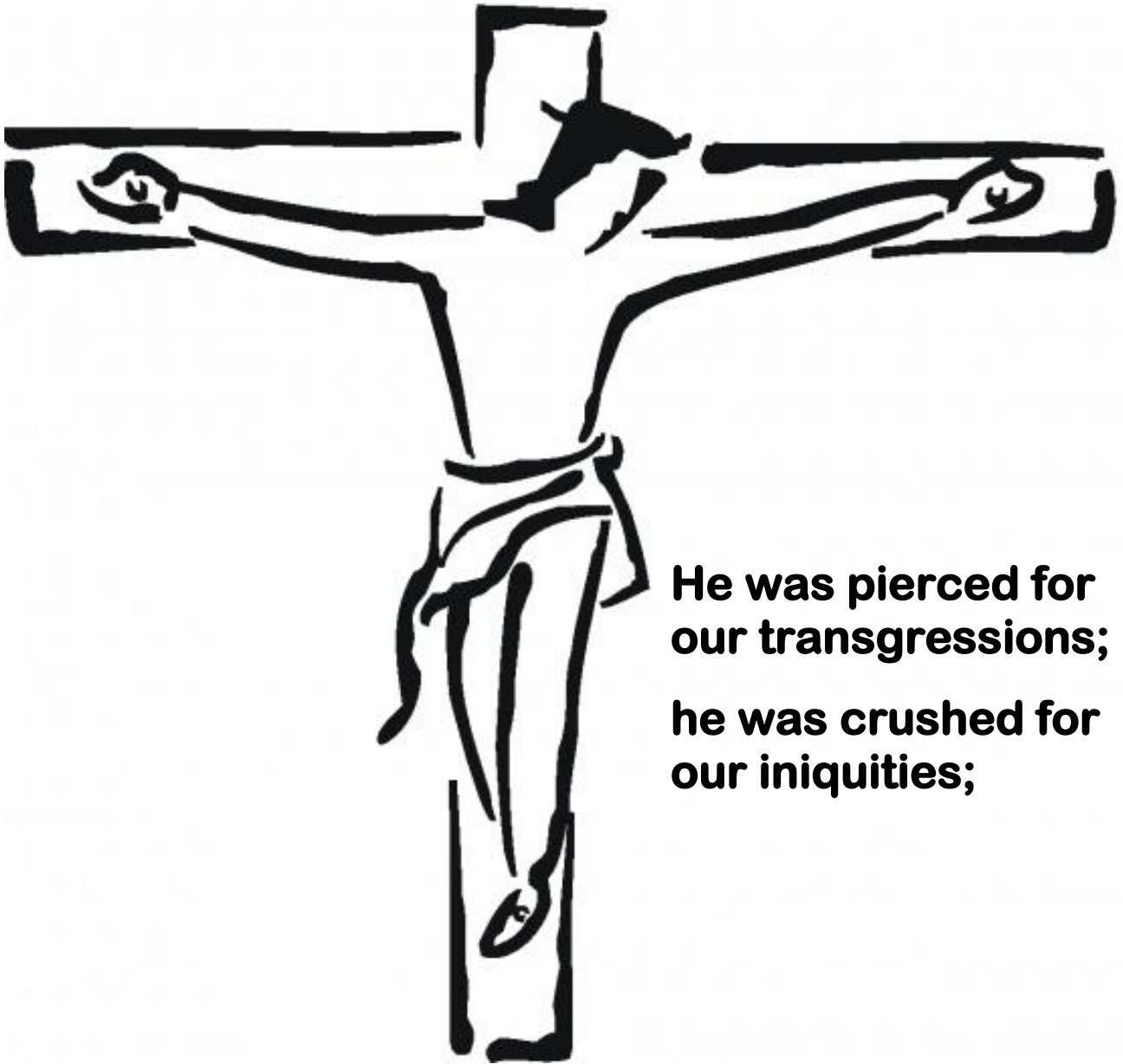




CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
6300 Trinity Drive, Pine Bluff, Arkansas
Friday, April 7, 2023



**He was pierced for
our transgressions;
he was crushed for
our iniquities;**

HOLY FRIDAY

SOLEMN SERVICE OF THE WORD

Call to Worship

Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

Surely, he has born our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole,

And with his stripes we are healed.

Opening Prayer

Blessed be our God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Holy and everliving God, look graciously on this your family for which our Saviour Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and to suffer death upon the cross; and grant us to grow into the fullness of new life in Christ who now is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Hymn 212 Alas! And did My Savior Bleed

**1 Alas! and did my Savior bleed, and did my Sovereign die!
Would he devote that sacred head for sinners such as I?**

**2 Was it for crimes that I have done, he groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity! Grace unknown! And love beyond degree!**

**3 Well might the sun in darkness hide, and shut its glories in,
when God, the mighty maker, died for his own creature's sin.**

**4 But drops of tears can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe.
Here, Lord, I give myself away; 'tis all that I can do.**

Litany

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

we worship you.

O crucified Jesus, holy temple of God, dwelling place of the Most High,
gate of heaven, burning flame of love,

we worship you.

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

we worship you.

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

we worship you.

Jesus, Lamb of God,

have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins,

have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world,

grant us peace.

[*a brief silence.*]

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.

Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

13 Behold, my servant shall prosper, he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be
very high. ¹⁴As many were astonished at him— his appearance was so marred,
beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the sons of men— ¹⁵so
shall he startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that
which has not been told them they shall see, and that which they have not heard
they shall understand.

¹ Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of
the Lord been revealed? ² For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a
root out of dry ground; he had no form or comeliness that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him. ³ He was despised and rejected by men; a

man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth. ⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? ⁹ And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. ¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the Lord to bruise him; he has put him to grief; when he makes himself an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand; ¹¹ he shall see the fruit of the travail of his soul and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous; and he shall bear their iniquities. ¹² Therefore I will divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out his soul to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(A Moment of Silence)

Second Reading: Psalm 22:1-11

- 1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?
- 2 O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me

- 3 Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.
4 In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me

- 5 To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame. 6 But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me

- 7 All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;
8 "He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me

- 9 Yet you are he who took me from the womb; you made me trust you at my mother's breasts. 10 On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother's womb you Have been my God.
11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

[A time of silence]

Hymn # 216 Beneath the Cross of Jesus

1. Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand, The shadow of a mighty Rock Within a weary land; A home within the wilderness, A rest upon the way, From the burning of the noontide heat, And the burden of the day.

2. Upon that cross of Jesus Mine eye at times can see The very dying form of One, Who suffered there for me; And from my stricken heart with tears, Two wonders I confess, The wonders of redeeming love, And my unworthiness.

3. I take, O cross, thy shadow For my abiding place; I ask no other sunshine than The sunshine of His face; Content to let the world go by, To know no gain nor loss, My sinful self my only shame, My glory all the cross.

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.

I led you through the desert forty years and fed you with manna:

I brought you through tribulation and remorse 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 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.

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

I gave you a royal scepter and bestowed the keys of 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.

My peace I gave, which the world cannot give, and washed your feet as a sign of my love, but you draw the sword to strike in my name and seek high places in my kingdom. I offered you my body and blood, but you scatter and deny and abandon me, and 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, have mercy.

I grafted you into the tree of my chosen Israel, and you turned on them with persecution and mass murder. I made you joint heirs with them of my covenants, but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

[*A time of silence*]

A Reading of the Passion Gospel from the gospel of John

Reader One: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Reader Two: So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.

One: The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.

Two: So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

One: He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

Two: Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, “You also are not one of his disciples, are you?” He denied it and said, “I am not.” One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, “Did I not see you in the garden with him?” Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

One: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Two: There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”

One: *For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.*

Two: 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!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

One: For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Two: When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Words of Hope (We go out to wait for the dawn)

The light is failing. We are failing too. Yet the ancient promise holds true.

God does miracles at night, and in just a few days, the dawn will break.

The light of the world will rise.

Amen.

Listening to Hymn # 228 Were you there (You may leave in Silence)