Good Shepherd Community Church Theme: Jesus on Trial



17 March 2024

We Gather before Our God For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God. 1 Peter 3:18

Call to Worship-The eternal Father, who loved us and set us free from our sins, who loves us still with that love that will not let us go, and who will love us forever, calls us to worship him today as the only true lover of our souls. We come to him through the one Mediator. *Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the*

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:2

Hymn- 415P Come and See, Come and See

Come and see, come and see, come and see the King of love, see the purple robe and crown of thorn he wears. Soldiers mock, rulers sneer as he lifts the cruel cross, lone and friendless now he climbs towards the hill.

We worship at your feet where wrath and mercy meet and a guilty world is washed by love's pure stream. For us he was made sin; 0, help me take it in. Deep wounds of love cry out, 'Father forgive!' I worship, I worship the Lamb who was slain.

2. Come and weep, come and mourn for your sin that pierced him there; so much deeper than the wounds of thorn and nail. All our pride, all our greed, all our fallenness and shame: and the Lord has laid the punishment on him.

3. Man of heaven, born to earth to restore us to your heaven, here we bow in awe beneath your searching eyes. From your tears comes our joy, from your death our life shall spring; by your resurrection power we shall rise.

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Opening Prayer Eternal God, Our Father we joyously come together to worship, realizing we need not summon you into our midst, for you are here. We need not call you into the secret places of our hearts, for vou are there. We need our eyes of faith to be opened, that we may see you; our ears to be unstopped, that we may hear you; our minds to be sensitive, that we may know you; our hearts to be tender, that we may receive you. Grant each one a blessing, O Lord, as each has need, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Hvmn-418P Go to Dark Gethsemane

Go to dark Gethsemane. you that feel the tempter's power; vour Redeemer's conflict see, watch with him one bitter hour; turn not from his griefs away: learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

2. Follow to the judgement-hall, view the Lord of life arraigned; see him meekly bearing all; O the pangs his soul sustained! Shun not suffering, shame, or loss: learn from him to bear the cross.

Prayer- Congregation- Confession of Sin

Lord Jesus, we come before you in humble confession.

Help us conform our lives to you as the model for holy and righteous living. Forgive where we fall short. Forgive us for our desire for personal greatness, for our attempts to make gods of ourselves, for our willingness to exalt ourselves at the expense of others, and for our resistance to serving one another as you have served us.

Forgive us for making light of your obedience and sacrifice on the cross by living an undisciplined and indifferent Christian witness; forgive us for yielding to fear rather than relying on your strength to take the risks of discipleship.

Forgive us, dear Jesus, for times we have not looked to you as our Lord, and for allowing the clamoring distractions of the world to become higher priorities than you. Forgive us for yielding more to the pressures of this world than being transformed by your lordship over our lives. Amen.

Word of Pardon

God demonstrates his own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Consequently, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Romans 5:8; 8:1 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree; so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. 1 Peter 2:24

Amen. Thanks to God for our Redeemer!

Hymn- In God the Father, I Believe

In God the Father I believe Almighty Lord of all Who made the heavens and the earth His name be praised in awe And I believe in Jesus Christ The Father's only Son Conceived by the Holy Ghost Of virgin Mary born.

Who suffered when He stood condemned By Pontius Pilate's code Was crucified, was dead As He Himself had long foretold Our Lord was buried in a tomb Descended into hell But on the third day He arose Again on earth to dwell.

Ascending into heaven above He sits at God's right hand From there He shall return to judge The living and the dead In God the Spirit I believe Who guides a holy church The universal body that Victorious shall emerge.

I do believe that all the saints Must now commune in love And that redeemed by Jesus' blood Our sins are pardoned us And at life's end my body frail Upraised from earthly strife Is resurrected and renewed In everlasting life. Amen. Authors: Apostles' Creed, Frank DeVries Meter 8686 Tune- Ortonville

The Word Read

Jesus said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Luke 24: 44f Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching., 1 Timothy 4:13 **Prayer-** Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

First Testament- Isaiah 53:3-6

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 pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and Yahweh has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Psalm 69:1-12

To the choirmaster: according to Lilies. Of David. Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck. ² I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold: I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me. ³ I am weary with my crying out; my throat is parched. My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God. ⁴ More in number than the hairs of my head are those who hate me without cause; mighty are those who would destroy me, those who attack me with lies. What I did not steal must I now restore? ⁵ O God, you know my folly; the wrongs I have done are not hidden from you. ⁶Let not those who hope in you be put to shame through me,

O Lord YAHWEH of hosts; let not those who seek you be brought to dishonor through me,

O God of Israel. ⁷ For it is for your sake that I have borne reproach,

that dishonor has covered my face.

⁸I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my mother's sons.

⁹ For zeal for your house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.

¹⁰ When I wept and humbled my soul with fasting, it became my reproach.

¹¹When I made sackcloth my clothing,

I became a byword to them.

¹² I am the talk of those who sit in the gate, and the drunkards make songs about me.

New Testament- Acts 3:12-26

¹² And when Peter saw it, he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his *servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him.* ¹⁴ But you denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵ and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶ And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

¹⁷ "And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸ But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. ¹⁹ Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, ²⁰ that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, ²¹ whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago. ²² Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. ²³ And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.' ²⁴ And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days. ²⁵ You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.' ²⁶ God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness."

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

Hymn- "See, Christ Was Wounded for Our Sake"

See, Christ was wounded for our sake, And bruised and broken for our sin; So by his sufferings we are healed, For God has laid our guilt on him.

Look on his face, come close to him, But you will find no beauty there. Despised, rejected -who can tell The grief and sorrow he must bear?

Like sheep that stray, we leave God's path, To choose our own and not his will; Like sheep to slaughter he has gone, Obedient to his Father's will.

Cast out to die by those he loved, Reviled by those he came to save, See how sin's pride has sought his death, See how sin's hate has made his grave.

For on his shoulders God has laid

The weight of sin that we should bear; So by his passion we have peace, Through his obedience and his prayer. Text -Isaiah 53:2 -9 versified by Brian Foley LM Tune- Duke Street

The Word Proclaimed

Reading from the Passion Narrative - Jesus on Trial **John 18:13-14,19-24**

¹³ First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. ¹⁴ It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

¹⁹ The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. ²⁰ Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. ²¹ Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said." ²² When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" ²³ Jesus answered him, "If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?" ²⁴ Annas then sent him bound **to Caiaphas the high priest**.

Matthew 26:57-27:2- Religious Trial

Jesus' Jewish trial before Caiaphas:

Charges violating the Sabbath law (by healing on the Sabbath); threatening to destroy the Jewish Temple; practicing sorcery, exorcising people by the power of demons; and claiming to be the Messiah. No two witnesses agreed; therefore, the authorities were not able to render a verdict.

⁵⁷ Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. ⁵⁸ And Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end. ⁵⁹ Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, ⁶⁰ but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last, two came forward ⁶¹ and said, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'" ⁶² And the high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" ⁶³ But Jesus remained silent. **And the high priest said to him, "I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God**." ⁶⁴ Jesus said to him, **"You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven**." ⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his **blasphemy**. ⁶⁶ What is your judgment?" They answered, "He deserves death." ⁶⁷ Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, ⁶⁸ saying, "Prophesy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?"

27 When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. ² And they bound him and led him away and **delivered him over to Pilate the governor**.

Hymn- Ah, Holy Jesus How Have You Offended?

Ah, holy Jesus, how have you offended that man to judge you has in hate pretended?

By foes derided, by your own rejected, O most afflicted!

2. Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon you? It is my treason, Lord, that has undone you; and I, O Jesus, it was I denied you, I crucified you.

3. See how the shepherd for the sheep is offered, the slave has sinned and yet the Son has suffered; for our atonement hangs the Savior bleeding, God interceding.

4. For me, kind Jesus, was your incarnation, your dying sorrow and your life's oblation, your bitter passion and your desolation, for my salvation.

5. O mighty Savior, I cannot repay you, I do adore you and will here obey you: recall your mercy and your love unswerving, not my deserving. Authors: Johann Heermann, Johann Crüger Tune Name: HERZLIEBSTER JESU # 412P

John 18:28-19:18- Roman Political Trial

Charge - sedition treason against the Empire.

²⁸ Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. ²⁹ So **Pilate** went outside to them and said, "What **accusation** do you bring against this man?" ³⁰ They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you." ³¹ Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death." ³² This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

³³ So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" ³⁵ Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world." ³⁷ Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." ³⁸ Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in him. ³⁹ But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" ⁴⁰ They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

19 Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. ² And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. ³ They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. ⁴ Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him." ⁵ So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" ⁶ When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him." ⁷ The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God." ⁸ When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. ⁹ He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" ¹¹ Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore, he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin."

¹² From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. **Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar**." ¹³ So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. ¹⁴ Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" ¹⁵ They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." ¹⁶ So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

The Holy Gospel. Praise to you, Lord Jesus!

Hymn- To Mock Your Reign

To mock Your reign, O dearest Lord, they made a crown of thorns; set You with taunts along that road from which no one returns. They could not know, as we do now, how glorious is that crown; that thorns would flower upon Your brow, Your sorrows heal our own.

2 In mock acclaim, O gracious Lord, they snatched a purple cloak; Your passion turned, for all they cared, into a soldier's joke. They could not know, as we do now, that though we merit blame, You will Your robe of mercy throw around our naked shame.

3 A sceptered reed, O patient Lord, they thrust into Your hand, and acted out their grim charade to its appointed end. They could not know, as we do now, though empires rise and fall, Your kingdom shall not cease to grow till love embraces all. Authors: Fred Pratt Green Tune Name: KINGSFOLD

Sermon Text- John 18:13-14,19-24; John 18:28-19:18

Other Key Reference Verses:

This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. Acts 2:23 Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. Acts 3:13

For truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸ to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. Acts 4:27-28

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:20

Sermon- "He Suffered Under Pontius Pilate" by Wayne Conrad

Hymn- "He Stood before the Court"

He stood before the court on trial instead of us; he met its power to hurt, condemned to face the cross: our king, accused of treachery; our God, abused for blasphemy!

2 These are the crimes that tell the tale of human guilt; our sins, our death, our hell on these the case is built: to this world's powers their Lord stays dumb; the guilt is ours, no answers come.

3 The sentence must be passed, the unknown prisoner killed; the price is paid at last, the law of God fulfilled: he takes our blame, and from that day the accuser's claim is wiped away.

4 Shall we be judged and tried? In Christ our trial is done; we live, for he has died, our condemnation gone: in Christ are we both dead and raised, alive and free his name be praised!

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The Gospel Ordinance of the Lord's Supper

"Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." (Matthew 26:26-28)

A Word of Explanation

We see from this institution of the holy supper of our Lord Jesus Christ that He directs our faith and trust to His perfect sacrifice, once offered on the cross. This is the only ground and foundation of our salvation. For by his death, he has taken away the cause of our eternal death and misery, namely sin, and obtained for us the life-giving Spirit. By the Holy Spirit, who dwells in Christ as in the Head and in us as His members, we have true communion with Him and are made partakers of all His riches, of life eternal, righteousness, and glory.

That we then may be nourished with Christ, the true heavenly bread, let us not cling with our hearts to the external bread and wine but lift our minds on high in heaven, where Christ Jesus is, our Advocate, at the right hand of His heavenly Father. Let us not doubt that we shall be nourished and refreshed in our souls, with His body and blood. It is through the working of the Holy Spirit that we truly feed on Christ in the bread and drink that we share in remembrance of Him.

Invocation

O Lord Jesus Christ, be present with us now, as you were with your disciples in the upper room before you went to the cross. Preside at your own Table since you are both the giver of the feast and the feast itself. As the very Bread of Life nourish us your people.

The Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread and the poured cup and gave thanks to the Father.

Thanksgiving Prayer

Gracious Father, we lift up our hearts to you and give thanks for your providence and the riches of your undeserved lovingkindness in the unspeakable gift of salvation in Jesus Christ your Son. Not as we ought but as we are able, we bless you for Jesus' holy incarnation, for his perfect holy life and ministry on earth, for his agony and death on the cross, and for his glorious resurrection and reign at your right hand. Give to us now your gracious presence and sanctify by your Word and Spirit these gifts of bread and wine for their sacred use. As we partake of them may we receive by faith the body and blood of Jesus Christ to our spiritual nourishment and growth in grace, and to the glory of your holy Name.

Accept, O Lord, this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, as we dedicate ourselves anew to him who first loved us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Bread

The Bread which we break is a communion of the body of Christ. *After the Lord Jesus had blessed the bread, He broke it.* Following His command and example, and ministering in His name, I break this bread (here the bread is broken) and give it to you His disciples, saying as He said, **"Take, eat; this is My body which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me."**

Hymn- With This Bread We Will Remember Him

With this bread we will remember him, Son of God, broken and suffering: for our guilt - innocent offering. As we eat, remember him.

2. With this wine we will remember him, on the cross, paying the price for sin blood of Christ cleansing us deep within. As we drink, remember him. Author- Geoff Baker Copyright: © 1994 Sovereign Music UK #661P

The cup of blessing which we bless is a communion of the blood of Christ.

In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying: *'This cup is the new covenant in My blood; this do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.'*

The Cup For as often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

After the communion **prayer**:

O merciful God and Father, grant that through the operation of Your Holy Spirit the remembrance of our Lord Jesus Christ and the proclamation of His death there will be in us a daily increase in true faith and in blessed fellowship with Christ; through Him, Your dear Son, in whose Name we pray. Amen.

close Hymn – "Man of Sorrows"

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

2. Mocked by insults harsh and crude, in my place condemned he stood; sealed my pardon with his blood: Hallelujah! What a Savior!

3. Guilty, vile and helpless, we; spotless Lamb of God was he: full atonement-can it be? Hallelujah! What a Savior!

4. Lifted up was he to die, 'It is finished!' was his cry; now in heaven, exalted high: Hallelujah! What a Savior! 5. When he comes, our glorious King, all his ransomed home to bring; then anew this song we'll sing: Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! What a Savior! 433P

Benediction- "Yahweh bless you and keep you; Yahweh make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; Yahweh lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace." **Amen.**

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