

GOOD FRIDAY
APRIL 18, 2025

LAPSLEY CHAPEL
12:00 P.M.-3:00 P.M.

You are invited to engage in a time of prayer and reflection. Stay as long as you would like.

PRAYER

Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

HYMN

“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”

No. 257

Read the words as your opening meditation

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We come to you, Jesus, burdened with our own sin. Our own calls for revenge and violence, which may or may not have included the words, “Crucify, crucify!” Our own betrayals, with or without the thirty pieces of silver. Our own denials, whether or not we have heard the cock crowing. You know the sins we carry, secretly or openly, the way they crush us, the weight of them. We bring these to your cross. Forgive us we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him. O Believer, through the cross of Christ we are forgiven and reconciled to God. Praise be to God!

—based on Colossians 1:19-22

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 22:1-21

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

John 18:1-19:42

Hebrews 10:16-25

Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9

Romans 8:31-39

MEDITATION

“They took Jesus and led him away.”

—John 19:16

He had been all night in agony, he had spent the early morning at the hall of Caiaphas, he had been hurried from Caiaphas to Pilate, from Pilate to Herod, and

from Herod back again to Pilate; he had, therefore, but little strength left, and yet neither refreshment nor rest were permitted him. They were eager for his blood, and therefore led him out to die, loaded with the cross. O dolorous procession! Well may Salem’s daughters weep. My soul, do thou weep also.

What learn we here as we see our blessed Lord led forth? Do we not perceive that truth which was set forth in shadow by *the scapegoat*? Did not the high-priest bring the scapegoat, and put both his hands upon its head, confessing the sins of the people, that thus those sins might be laid upon the goat, and cease from the people? Then the goat was led away by a fit man into the wilderness, and it carried away the sins of the people, so that if they were sought for, they could not be found. Now we see Jesus brought before the priests and rulers, who pronounce him guilty; God himself imputes our sins to him, “the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all;” “He was made sin for us;” and, as the substitute for our guilt, bearing our sin upon his shoulders, represented by the cross; we see the great Scapegoat led away by the appointed officers of justice. Beloved, can you feel assured that he carried *your* sin? As you look at the cross upon his shoulders, does it represent *your* sin? There is one way by which you can tell whether he carried your sin or not. Have you laid your hand upon his head, confessed your sin, and trusted in him? Then your sin lies not on you; it has all been transferred by blessed imputation to Christ, and he bears it on his shoulder as a load heavier than the cross.

Let not the picture vanish till you have rejoiced in your own deliverance, and adored the loving Redeemer upon whom your iniquities were laid.¹

PRAYER

Holy God, you have opened our ears to hear your Word and our lips to proclaim your truth: open our eyes this day to see in the cross the revelation of your love; through Jesus the crucified, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, be honor and praise, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN

“O Jesus, We Adore Thee”

No. 255

Read the words as your closing meditation

BENEDICTION

May you find in the cross a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven. And may the blessing of God go with you, now and forevermore.

¹ Spurgeon, C. H. (1896). *Morning and evening: Daily readings*. Passmore & Alabaster.

Thank you for joining us today as we reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ to reconcile us with God by accepting the punishment for our sins. We celebrate that Easter and The Resurrection are at hand.

First EPC invites you to traditional worship with us each Sunday at 10:30 am. Join us for adult, youth, and children's Bible Study (Sunday School) at 9:00 am.

God is doing great things as we celebrate the 95th birthday of our Sanctuary in June 2025, and the 175th birthday of our founding in May 2026.

Is He calling you to visit our community this Easter season and beyond?

First Evangelical Presbyterian Church

2101 South Jefferson Street
Roanoke, Virginia 24014-0538
(540-344-3204)
www.fepcroanoke.org



Pastor: Rev. Don Hardman
Director of Music: Rev. Keith Olivier
Director of Christian Education: Mr. Pete G. Guillard
Organist: Mr. William Turner
Handbell Director: Dr. Erma Rose