The Essentials: Hope

Session 10: Matthew 27:24-50 and Psalm 42

Opening Collect

> *Together:* 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; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Read: Matthew 27:24-59 and Psalm 42

Opening Thought: What does hope look like? Knowing the provision of God in the face of death.

Discussion:

1. Death is perhaps the most devastating event that any person will face. How do you feel about death? Is it something you fear? If you are willing, share with your group.
2. Notice how Jesus says nothing in our passage from Matthew. Why do you think he undergoes his trial and execution with such willingness?
3. Some of us are, perhaps, more afraid of shame than we are of death. Notice all the shameful features of the crucifixion. What are they? If Jesus is willing to look like a fool—seemingly unsuccessful, naked, out of control—how does that impact your fear of shame?
4. Reread Psalm 42 and imagine Jesus praying each verse. Jesus, like us, rests his hope in the provision of God in all circumstances. What would it look like for you to hope in God in the face of everything—even death?
5. Read Psalm 148 as a group. What have you learned over the past 10 weeks? How has this study prompted you to praise God?

Check in and Closing Prayer

Matthew 27:24-50

[24] 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." [25] Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" [26] So he released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified. [27] Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. [28] They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, [29] 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!" [30] They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. [31] After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.[32] As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. [33] And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), [34] they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. [35] And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; [36] then they sat down there and kept watch over him. [37] Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."[38] Then two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. [39] Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads [40] 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." [41] In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, [42] "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. [43] He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to, for he said, 'I am God's Son.' " [44] The rebels who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way. [45] From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. [46] 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?" [47] When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." [48] 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. [49] But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." [50] Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

Psalm 42

[1] As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.
[2] My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When shall I come and behold
the face of God?
[3] My tears have been my food day and night,
while people say to me continually,
"Where is your God?"

[4] These things I remember,
as I pour out my soul:
how I went with the throng
and led them in procession to the house of God,
with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving,
a multitude keeping festival.
[5] Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God, for I shall again praise him,
my help and my God.

[6] My soul is cast down within me;
therefore I remember you
from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount Mizar.
[7] Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your torrents;
all your waves and your billows
have gone over me.
[8] By day the Lord commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.

[9] I say to God, my rock, "Why have you forgotten me?
Why must I walk about mournfully
because the enemy oppresses me?"
[10] As with a deadly wound in my body,
my adversaries taunt me, while they say to me continually,
"Where is your God?"

[11] Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God, for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.