

Silence for meditation

M: Let us pray.

God Most Holy, look with mercy on this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, be given over into the hands of the wicked, and suffer death upon the cross.

Keep us always faithful to him, our only Savior, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN: CWS 718

Rest, O Christ, From All Your Labor

SILENT MEDITATION

Christ Candle is returned.

There is no blessing, for our worship will continue on Sunday.

After the pastor exits the sanctuary, the congregation also leaves in silence. Please do not converse with one another inside the church. There will not be a greeting line at the doorway. You may remain for silent prayer and meditation if you desire.

We gather on Sunday at 7 & 10 AM to rejoice in our Savior's resurrection.



**GOOD
FRIDAY**

MEDITATION ON THE CROSS OF CHRIST

About tonight's service...

The Seven Words

Scripture tells us of seven things Jesus said from the cross. All seven are short. All seven are profound, showing the depth of his love for us. Tonight, our worship revolves around looking at these seven words.

Tenebrae: A Service of Darkness

The word tenebrae (TEN-e-bray) means "darkness." The service we use tonight follows a pattern that has existed in Good Friday worship for centuries. Throughout the service light will grow dim and candles will be extinguished, representing Christ's life ebbing away.

Symbolic Silence

The mood of the service is most solemn, encouraging the worshipers to reflect deeply upon their own life in the light of the Passion of our Lord. No closing blessing is pronounced and the congregation disperses into the night, leaving the darkened church in silence, yet remembering the Light which lingers and casts hope through the gloom of Good Friday.

In keeping with the solemnity of the day, there will be no pre- or post-service music.

Silence for meditation is appreciated.

GREETING

HYMN: CWS 714 (verses 1-4)

The Lamb

FIRST REPROACH

M: Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O my people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer me. For I have raised you up out of the prison house of sin and death, and you have delivered up your Redeemer to be scourged. For I have redeemed you from the house of bondage, and you have nailed your Savior to the cross. O my people!

The Seventh Word: Luke 23:33-46

It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

Silence for meditation

M: O God in heaven, help us to follow our head, our Lord Jesus Christ. When you call us poor sinners out of this valley of tears, move us to submit our spirits to you in trouble, and speak in the heart when our tongues can no longer speak, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" and then receive our souls into the divine protection of your gracious hands, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord and our Savior. Amen.

The congregation sings...

**Jesus, all your labor vast, All your woe and conflict past,
Yielding up your soul at last: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**When the death shades round us lower, Guard us from the tempter's power,
Keep us in that trial hour: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**May your life and death supply Grace to live and grace to die,
Grace to reach the home on high: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

The seventh candle is removed

THE BURIAL OF JESUS: Matthew 27:57-60

As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away.

The congregation sings...

Jesus, in your thirst and pain, While you wounds your life-blood drain,

Thirsting more our love to gain: Hear us, holy Jesus.

**Thirst for us in mercy still; All your holy work fulfill;
Satisfy your loving will: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**May we thirst your love to know; Lead us in our sin and woe
Where the healing waters flow: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

The fifth candle is extinguished.

The Sixth Word: John 19:30

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Silence for meditation

M: O God in heaven, according to your will and in your Son Jesus Christ, all is finished. May all our works always be done according to your divine will, and never following our own understanding. Amen.

The congregation sings...

**Jesus, all our ransom paid, All your Father's will obeyed;
By your sufferings perfect made: Hear us, holy Jesus.
Save us in our soul's distress; Be our help to cheer and bless
While we grow in holiness: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**Brighten all our heavenward way With an ever holier ray
Till we pass to perfect day: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

The sixth candle is extinguished.

Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer, God eternal, leave us not to bitter death. O Lord, have mercy.

The congregation sings...

**C: Lamb of God, pure and holy, who on the cross did suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, yourself to scorn did offer.
All sins you carried for us, else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus!**

SECOND REPROACH

M: Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O my people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer me. For I have conquered all your foes, and you have given me over and delivered me to those who persecute me. For I have fed you with my Word and refreshed you with living water, and you have given me gall and vinegar to drink. O my people!

Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer, God eternal, allow us not to lose hope in the face of death and hell. O Lord, have mercy.

The congregation sings...

**C: Lamb of God, pure and holy, who on the cross did suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, yourself to scorn did offer.
All sins you carried for us, else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus!**

THIRD REPROACH

M: Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O my people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer me. What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? My people, is this how you thank your God? O my people!

Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer, God eternal, keep us steadfast in the true faith. O Lord, have mercy.

The congregation sings...

C: Lamb of God, pure and holy, who on the cross did suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, yourself to scorn did offer.
All sins you carried for us, else had despair reigned o'er us:
Your peace be with us, O Jesus!

LESSON Isaiah 52:13- 53:12

PSALM 22 *Pastor sings verses; congregation sings refrains*

GOSPEL John 19:1-18

HYMN: CW 125 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

SERMON

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Heavenly Father, you are a just God who accepts nothing less than perfection. All too often we fail to realize how much our sins offend you. We forget that the wages of sin truly is death. We forget that there actually is a hell. Lead us to recognize the seriousness of our sinfulness. Lead us also to admit our inability to make things right with you.

C: Teach us to look to you as the only one who can make us just and right.

M: Today we are reminded not only of your justice but also of your love. You did not spare your own Son but gave him as a ransom for each one of us. Comfort us with the knowledge of this great love. Give us the peace that the forgiveness of sins brings.

C: When we feel our guilt, point us to the cross, where our guilt was washed away in Jesus' blood.

Silence for meditation

M: O God, heavenly Father, through the anguished cry of Jesus Christ, "My God, why have you forsaken me?" you draw us all to yourself for the sake of your Son, O God in heaven, do not forsake us when we bear our heaviest crosses and afflictions, but reach out to us and uphold us with your fatherly grace. Amen.

The congregation sings...

**Jesus, whelmed in fears unknown, With our evil left alone,
While no light from heaven is shown: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**When we seem in vain to pray And our hope seems far away,
In the darkness be our stay: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**Though no Father seem to hear, Though no light our spirits
cheer,**

May we know that God is near: Hear us, holy Jesus.

The fourth candle is extinguished.

The Fifth Word: John 19:28-29

Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips.

Silence for meditation

M: O God, in the parched thirst of Jesus Christ, he spoke in the depths of his suffering, "I thirst." Move us poor people to hunger and thirst for your righteousness. O God in heaven, kindle our hearts with your divine love, that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers will be able to separate us from your love. Make us hunger and thirst to serve each other willingly. Amen.

The Third Word: John 19:25-27

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Silence for meditation

M: O God, we ask for your compassion which you had for your afflicted mother when you gave her into the care of your beloved disciple John. O Lord, take us poor people into your care. Shelter and shield us from all the assaults of the evil foe, and all adversaries and persecutors who seek to take Christian lives. Amen.

The congregation sings...

**Jesus, loving to the end Her whose heart your sorrows rend,
And your dearest human friend: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**May we in your sorrows share, For your sake all peril dare,
And enjoy your tender care: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**May we all your loved ones be, All one holy family,
Loving, since your love we see: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

The third candle is extinguished.

The Fourth Word: Matthew 27:45-49

From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi lama sabachthani?" — which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling Elijah." Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. The rest said, "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him."

M: Lord Jesus, we thank you for paying the debt that we could not pay. We thank you for coming to earth so that we could be with you forever in heaven.

C: **For being our perfect substitute, we thank you, Lord Jesus.**

M: Son of God, you offered up your body as an unblemished sacrifice for sin and commended your spirit into the hands of your Father. Teach us to cast the cares of this brief life on our heavenly Father and commit our bodies and souls to his love.

C: **Give us the courage to face death, knowing that it is the gate to our home in heaven.**

M: The cross was once an instrument of death. It is now a sign of life.

C: **Dear Savior, we humbly kneel at the cross in awe of your power and of your love. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

M: O Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

C: **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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

CHOIR

Were You There

The Seven Words

The First Word: Luke 23:26-34

As they led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. For the time will come when you will say, 'Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' Then " 'they will say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!" ' For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?" Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

Silence for meditation

M: O God in heaven, grant us patience, that we poor people will not strike back in return for any reproach or mockery from our neighbors, but may we persist in your Word, follow your divine will, and forgive all who have done us harm. Amen.

The congregation sings...

**Jesus, in your dying woes, Even while your lifeblood flows,
Craving pardon from your foes: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**Savior, for our pardon sue When our sins your pangs renew,
For we know not what we do: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**Oh, may we, who mercy need, Be like you in heart and deed,
When with wrong our spirits bleed: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

The first candle is extinguished.

The Second Word: Luke 23:35-43

The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One." The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself." There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

Silence for meditation

M: O God in heaven, we poor sinners cry out from this valley of tears to you, "Lord, remember us poor people in your kingdom." Cry out to our hearts when the soul is about to leave the body, "Today you will be with me in paradise." Amen.

The congregation sings...

**Jesus, pitying the sighs Of the thief, who near you dies,
Promising him paradise: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**May we in our guilt and shame Still your love and mercy claim,
Calling humbly on your name: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**May our hearts to you incline And their thoughts your cross en-
twine.**

Cheer our souls with hope divine: Hear us, holy Jesus.

The second candle is extinguished.