

*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.

*Silence for meditation*

**M:** Let us pray.

**C:** **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. Amen.**

**HYMN:** CWS 718

**Rest, O Christ, From All Your Labor**

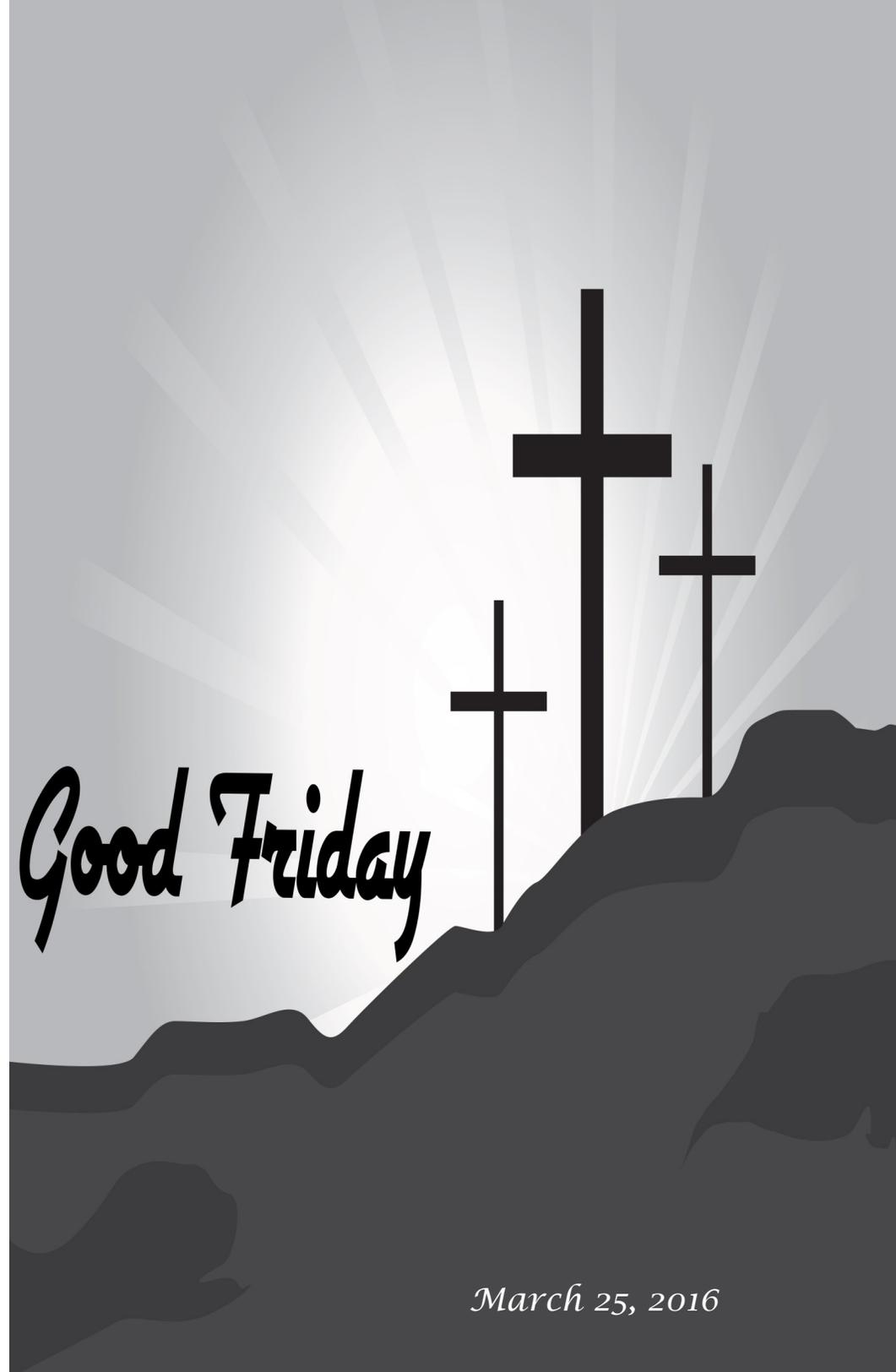
SILENT MEDITATION

*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

## 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**

## Lesson

**M:** A reading from the Lamentations of Jeremiah the prophet:

### **Lamentations 1:1-5**

How deserted lies the city, once so full of people!  
How like a widow is she, who once was great among the nations!  
She who was queen among the provinces has now become a slave.

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, your Son chose the path which led to pain before joy and the cross before glory. Plant his cross in our hearts, so that in its power and love we come to the final joy and glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### *The congregation sings...*

**My Savior, then be near me When death is at my door,  
And let your presence cheer me; Forsake me nevermore!  
When soul and body languish, Oh, leave me not alone,  
But take away my anguish By virtue of your own!**

### *The sixth candle is extinguished.*

## **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:** Lord Jesus, you carried our sins in your own body on the tree so that we might have life. May we and all who remember this day find new life in you now and in the world to come, where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for-ever. Amen.

### *The congregation sings...*

**Lord, be my consolation, My shield when I must die;  
Remind me of your passion When my last hour draws nigh.  
My eyes will then behold you, Upon your cross will dwell;  
My heart will then enfold you-- Who dies in faith dies well!**

M: Lord God, our strength, the battle of good and evil rages within and around us, and our ancient foe tempts us with deceits and empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your Word and, when we fall, raise us again and restore us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The congregation sings...*

**My burden in your passion, Lord, you have borne for me,  
For it was my transgression, My shame, on Calvary.  
I cast me down before you; Wrath is my rightful lot.  
Have mercy I implore you; Redeemer, spurn me not!**

*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: Merciful Lord, you sent your Son to be our peace. Help all who suffer pain or grief to find in him strength and peace, so that their trust in your promises may be renewed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The congregation sings...*

**What language shall I borrow To thank you, dearest Friend,  
For this, your dying sorrow, Your pity without end?  
Oh, make me yours forever, And keep me strong and true;  
Lord, let me never, never Outlive my love for you.**

*The fifth candle is extinguished.*

**The Sixth Word: John 19:30**

Bitterly she weeps at night, tears are upon her cheeks.  
Among all her lovers there is none to comfort her.  
All her friends have betrayed her; they have become her enemies.

After affliction and harsh labor, Judah has gone into exile.  
She dwells among the nations; she finds no resting place.  
All who pursue her have overtaken her in the midst of her distress.

The roads to Zion mourn, for no one comes to her appointed feasts.  
All her gateways are desolate, her priests groan,  
her maidens grieve, and she is in bitter anguish.

Her foes have become her masters; her enemies are at ease.  
The Lord has brought her grief because of her many sins.  
Her children have gone into exile, captive before the foe.

M: Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God!

*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!**

M: A reading from the Lamentations of Jeremiah the prophet:

**Lamentations 1:6-9**

All the splendor has departed from the Daughter of Zion.  
Her princes are like deer that find no pasture;  
in weakness they have fled before the pursuer.

In the days of her affliction and wandering, Jerusalem remembers all the treasures that were hers in days of old.  
When her people fell into enemy hands there was no one to help her.  
Her enemies looked at her and laughed at her destruction.

Jerusalem has sinned greatly and so has become unclean.  
All who honored her despise her nakedness;  
she herself groans and turns away.

Her filthiness clung to her skirts; she did not consider her future.  
Her fall was astounding; there was none to comfort her.  
“Look, O Lord, on my affliction, for the enemy has triumphed.”

**M:** Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God!

*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!**

**M:** A reading from the Lamentations of Jeremiah the prophet:

#### **Lamentations 1:10-14**

The enemy laid hands on all her treasures;  
she saw pagan nations enter her sanctuary—  
those you had forbidden to enter your assembly.

All her people groan as they search for bread;  
they barter their treasures for food to keep themselves alive.  
“Look, O Lord, and consider, for I am despised.”

“Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look around and see.  
Is any suffering like my suffering that was inflicted on me,  
that the Lord brought on me in the day of his fierce anger?

“From on high he sent fire, sent it down into my bones.  
He spread a net for my feet and turned me back.  
He made me desolate, faint all the day long.

“My sins have been bound into a yoke; by his hands they were  
woven together.  
They have come upon my neck and the Lord has sapped my  
strength.  
He has handed me over to those I cannot withstand.”

#### **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:** Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ; you have sent your Son to show us your love and the way of life. Make us sincerely thankful for this gift and for your patience with our sins and sorrow. Amen.

*The congregation sings...*

**Now from your cheeks has vanished Their color, once so fair;  
From your red lips is banished The splendor that was there.  
Grim death with cruel rigor Has robbed you of your life;  
Thus you have lost your vigor, Your strength, in this sad strife.**

*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.”

*Silence for meditation*

*The congregation sings...*

**O sacred head, now wounded, With grief and shame weighed down,  
Now scornfully surrounded, With thorns your only crown,  
O sacred head, no glory Now from your face does shine;  
Yet, though despised on gory, I joy to call you mine.**

*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:** Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you. Grant that our love may not grow cold in your service and that we may not fail or deny you in the hour of trial. Amen.

*The congregation sings...*

**Men mock and taunt and jeer you, They smite your countenance,  
Though mighty worlds shall fear you And flee before your glance.  
How pale you are with anguish, With sore abuse and scorn!  
Your eyes with pain now languish That once were bright as morn!**

*The second candle is extinguished.*

**M:** Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God!

*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**

**HYMN:** CW 125

**When I Survey the Wondrous Cross**

**SERMON**

**OFFERING**

*Please stand.*

**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.**

**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.

*Please be seated.*

### CHOIR Tree of Life

The tree of life with ev'ry good In Eden's holy orchard stood,  
 And of its fruit so pure and sweet God let the man and woman eat.  
 Yet in this garden also grew Another tree, of which they knew;  
 Its lovely limbs with fruit adorned Against whose eating God had warned.

The stillness of that sacred grove Was broken as the serpent strove  
 With tempting voice Eve to beguile And Adam too by sin defile.  
 Oh, day of sadness when the breath Of fear and darkness, doubt and  
 death,  
 Its awful poison first displayed Within the world so newly made.

What mercy God showed to our race, A plan of rescue by his grace:  
 In sending One from woman's seed, The One to fill our greatest need—  
 For on a tree uplifted high His only Son for sin would die,  
 Would drink the cup of scorn and dread To crush the ancient serpent's  
 head!

Now from that tree of Jesus' shame Flows life eternal in his name;  
 For all who trust and will believe, Salvation's living fruit receive.  
 And of this fruit so pure and sweet The Lord invites the world to eat,  
 To find within this cross of wood The tree of life with ev'ry good.

## 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:** Almighty God, our redeemer, in our weakness we have failed to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope in the world. Renew us by your Holy Spirit that we may follow your commands and proclaim your reign of love. Amen.