

The Seven Last Words



7:00 pm
April 2, 2021
Zion Lutheran Church
Camas, Washington
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Hours: Mon 8-12:00, Tues-Fri 8-5:00

"As a welcoming Body of Christ, we celebrate and share God's saving grace for all."

A service of prayer and meditation

A Tenebrae Service is a prolonged meditation of Christ's suffering upon the cross. There will be a prayer followed by a short scripture. Each scripture will be based on one of the seven statements of Jesus while he was dying on the cross. After each reading a candle will be extinguished, a verse from a hymn sung and the lights will be dimmed. We use this service to ponder the depth of Christ's suffering and death. The service will end in darkness with the exception of the eternal flame that is kept burning, knowing that Christ is forever and always present in our lives even on the darkest of nights.

Call to Worship

- L: God of the cross, God of the resurrection,
C: **keep lighting the way in the dark places.**
L: Help us, O Lord,
C: **to see meaning in this terrible story.**
L: Help us, O Lord,
C: **to keep the light of hope alive in our hearts.**
L: Amen.
C: **Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

Number 338

1. Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand; the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land, a home within a wilderness, a rest upon the way, from the burning of the noontide heat and burdens of the day.
2. Upon the cross of Jesus, my eye at times can see the very dying form of one who suffered there for me. And from my contrite heart, with tears, two wonders I confess: the wonder of his glorious love and my unworthiness.
3. I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place; I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss, my sinful self my only shame, my glory all, the cross.

Prayer for Preparation

- L: Jesus, crucified and living Savior, we do not like this story. We do not want to be separated; we do not want to be forsaken; we do not want "good-byes"; we certainly do not want to follow you to a cross. Life is full of brokenness and uncertainty. You have gone before us through suffering and tragedy. You have faced danger and conquered death. On this Good Friday, we come closer to each other, willing to share pain, confident there can be no bad Friday or lonely Saturday beyond your love. **Amen.**

Responsive Reading

Psalm 22

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning? My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer; by night, but I find no rest. Yet you are the Holy One, enthroned on the praises of Israel. Our ancestors put their trust in you, they trusted, and you rescued them. They cried out to you and were delivered; they trusted in you and were not put to shame. But as for me, I am a worm and not human, scorned by all and despised by the people. All who see me laugh me to scorn; they curl their lips; they shake their heads. Trust in the Lord; let the Lord deliver; let God rescue him if God so delights in him." Yet you are the one who drew me forth from the womb, and kept me safe on my mother's breast. I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; you were my God when I was still in my mother's

womb. Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is no one to help. Many young bulls encircle me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me. They open wide their jaws at me, like a slashing and roaring lion. I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint; my heart within my breast is melting wax. My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; and you have laid me in the dust of death. Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers circles round me; they pierce my hands and my feet. I can count all my bones while they stare at me and gloat. They divide my garments among them; for my clothing, they cast lots. But you, O Lord, be not far away; O my help, hasten to my aid. Deliver me from the sword, my life from the power of the dog. Save me from the lion's mouth! From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me. I will declare your name to my people; in the midst of the assembly I will praise you. You who fear the Lord, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory. Stand in awe of the Lord, all you offspring of Israel. For the Lord does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the Lord's face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the Lord hears them. From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord. The poor shall eat and be satisfied, let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever! All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; all the families of nations shall bow before God. For dominion belongs to the Lord, who rules over the nations. Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the Lord. Their descendants shall serve the Lord, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come. They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The Lord has acted!"

Special Music *"Christ Lag in Todesbanden"* J. S. Bach

The Seven Last Words of Jesus on the Cross

The first word: Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do!

Prayer

L: Almighty and eternal God,
C: ***you give strength to the weary and courage to those who have lost heart. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and deliver your world from hunger, crisis***

and disease. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, receiving your help in their time of need. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading

Luke 23:26, 32-34

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. ³²Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

First candle is extinguished

"Were You There"

Number 353

1. Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
2. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
3. Were you there when they pierced him in the side? Were you there when they pierced him in the side? Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
4. Were you there when the sun refused to shine? Were you there when the sun refused to shine? Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
5. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

The second word: Today you will be with me in paradise.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Reading Luke 23:35-43
And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." ³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Second candle is extinguished

"Ah, Holy Jesus" v. 1 Number 349

1. Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended that we to judge thee hath in hate pretended? By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted.

The third word: Woman, behold your son. Behold your mother.

Prayer

Jesus, my Savior and the Shepherd of my soul, embrace me with Your love, and protect me throughout this day. I need You, for I am wounded and bruised, sick at heart, and in trouble and distress. To You I come. ***Amen.***

Reading John 19:25b-27
Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When

Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Third candle is extinguished

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" v. 1 Number 351

1. O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down. Now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown; O sacred head, what glory, what bliss till now was thine! Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.

The fourth word: My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?

Prayer

O dear God and Lord! I live, yet I know not how long. I must die and yet I do not know when. But as You alone know, then, O Lord, my heavenly Father, let it be so! Should this day, this night, be the last of my life, Lord, Your will be done, for it alone is the best way. ***Amen.***

Reading Matthew 27:45-46
From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ⁴⁶And 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?"

Fourth candle is extinguished

"Ah, Holy Jesus" v. 2 Number 349

2. Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee? Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee. 'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee; I crucified thee.

The fifth word: I thirst.

Prayer

Surely, O Lord, You made me Yours through water and Word and keep me with Jesus Christ in the one true faith, while we face crisis and affliction. It drains my will, tests my patience, and challenges my endurance. You have promised that You will not impose upon Your children more than we can endure, and I know the truth of this word. ***Amen.***

Readings

John 19:28-29

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." ²⁹A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth.

Psalm 69:16-21

Answer me, O Lord, for your steadfast love is good; according to your abundant mercy, turn to me. ¹⁷Do not hide your face from your servant, for I am in distress — make haste to answer me. ¹⁸Draw near to me, redeem me, set me free because of my enemies. ¹⁹You know the insults I receive, and my shame and dishonor; my foes are all known to you. ²⁰Insults have broken my heart, so that I am in despair. I looked for pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none. ²¹They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

Fifth candle is extinguished

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

v. 2 Number 351

2. How art thou pale with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn; how does that visage languish which once was bright as morn! Thy grief and bitter passion were all for sinners' gain; Mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain.

The sixth word: It is finished.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, strength of the weary and a very present help to all who are in distress, I come to You with my many burdens and sins. Cleanse my soul, O Lord, and heal my body. Safely see me through the troubled waters of the day. Remove all sinful thoughts and worries from my heart, and let me find peace in You. **Amen.**

Reading

John 19:30

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

Sixth candle extinguished

"Ah, Holy Jesus"

v. 3 Number 349

3. Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered; the slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered; for our atonement, while we nothing heeded, God interceded.

The seventh word: Father, into Your hands I commend my spirit.

Prayer

L: We witness your death, O Lord.

C: ***Lord, have mercy.***

L: Christ, have mercy.

C: ***Lord, have mercy.***

L: We whisper a humble amen.

C: ***Amen, amen.***

Readings

Luke 23:44-46

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. ⁴⁵From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ⁴⁶And 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?"

Matthew 27:54

Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

Strepitus

Service ends in silence

Our thanks to this evening's musicians: Pat Hagensen, Gary Ritter, Judy Swanson

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"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

Text: Elizabeth C. Clefane; Music: ST CHRISTOPHER. Frederick C. Maker

"Christ Lag in Todesbanden" J.S. Bach

"Were You There"; Text & Music African- American Spiritual
@1999 Augsburg Fortress

"Ah, Holy Jesus"
Text: Johann Heermann, tr. Robert Bridges; Music: Johann Crüger

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"
Text: Paul Gerhardt, based on Arnulf of Louvain, tr. composite
Music: German melody, adapt. Hans Leo Hassler, arr. J. S. Bach