



the truth opposed

'SURELY HE WAS THE SON OF GOD'

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2020

THE SERVICE OF SEVEN WORDS

To impress on the minds and hearts of believers the awful consequences of sin and the magnitude of the Savior's sacrifice, the ancient church held a special service, called Tenebrae, in the last days of Holy Week. The word means "darkness." The service guides us from Jesus' abuse in Jerusalem to Mount Calvary where Scripture records seven words, or statements, from our Savior on the cross before he died.

The service is meant to be a time of somber reflection, but at the same time we are celebrating this death because of the forgiveness and life that flow from the cross for us and for our salvation. Because Good Friday is not an isolated event or day but part of God's planned revelation of His love, we listen to the entire story of God's work of salvation and deliverance. The message of the cross is the message of the Scriptures, planned by God, proclaimed by the prophets, and fulfilled in Christ.



GOD BLESS YOUR MEDITATION

THE FIRST REPROACH AND RESPONSE

P: 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 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.

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

sing: 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!

THE SECOND REPROACH AND RESPONSE

P: 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.

C: 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.

sing: 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!

THE THIRD REPROACH AND RESPONSE

P: 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 that 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.

C: 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.

sing: 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!

THE FIRST WORD

JOHN 19:14-16; LUKE 23:32-34

P: It was the day of Preparation of Passover Week, about the sixth hour. “Here is your king,” Pilate said to the Jews. But they shouted, “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!” “Shall I crucify your king?” Pilate asked. “We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered. Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified...

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.*”

P: The Church responds:

C: We praise you, O Christ, and we bless you; by your cross and precious death, you have redeemed the world. God forbid that I should glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus.

P: Almighty God, your dear Son, our Lord did not go up to joy before he first suffered pain; He did not enter into glory before he was crucified. Mercifully grant that we in faith may walk the way of his cross, and find in it the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE FIRST CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED.

*all sing: O dear-est Je-sus, what law have you bro-ken
That such sharp sen-tence should on you be spo-ken?
Of what great crime have you to make con-fes-sion—
What dark trans-gres-sion?*

THE SECOND WORD

LUKE 23:35-43

P: 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.*”

P: The Church responds:

C: We praise you, O Christ, and we bless you; by your cross and precious death, you have redeemed the world. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried all of our sorrows.

P: Lord Jesus, while you hung on the cross you showed mercy to the dying thief. With that mercy look on us also, we pray, and at our last hour, comfort us with your promise that we will dwell forever in paradise with you.

C: Amen.

THE SECOND CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED.

*all sing: They crown your head with thorns, they smite, they scourge you;
With cru-el mock-ings to the cross they urge you;
They give you gall to drink, they still de-cry you;
They cru-ci-fy you.*

THE THIRD WORD

JOHN 19:25-27

P: 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.

P: The Church responds:

C: We praise you, O Christ, and we bless you; by your cross and precious death, you have redeemed the world. Bind us to each other with bonds of charity and love, that we ever may reflect the great and sacrificial love that you have showed to us through your suffering, pain, and death on the cross.

P: Lord Jesus, even as you carried the weight of the sins of the world on your shoulders, your concern was for others. With the same concern you showed to your mother, show concern for us, your sorrowful children.

C: Amen.

THE THIRD CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED.
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*all sing: When come these sor-rows, whence this mor-tal an-guish?
It is my sins for which you, Lord, must lan-guish;
Yes, all the wrath, the woe that you in-her-it,
This I do mer-it.*

THE FOURTH WORD

MATTHEW 27:45-47

P: 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.”

P: The Church responds:

C: We praise you, O Christ, and we bless you; by your cross and precious death, you have redeemed the world. Keep us mindful of your abiding presence with us that our witness to the love you have shown us may never falter or fail.

P: Grant, we pray, merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace; cleanse us from all our sins, so that we may serve you with a quiet mind, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

<p>THE FOURTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED.</p>
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*all sing: What pun-ish-ment so strange is suf-fered yon-der!
The Shep-herd dies for sheep that loved to wan-der;
The Mas-ter pays the debt his ser-vants owe him,
Who would not know him.*

THE FIFTH WORD

MATTHEW 10:38-42; JOHN 19:28-29

P: [Jesus told his disciples] anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives the one who sent me. Anyone who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and anyone who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward. And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward..."

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.

P: The Church responds:

C: We praise you, O Christ, and we bless you; by your cross and precious death, you have redeemed the world. Grant us peace and patience under all trials; keep us mindful of the great sacrifice you willingly made for us, to pay the price of our sins.

THE FIFTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED.

*all sing: The sin-less Son of God must die in sad-ness;
The sin-ful child of man may live in glad-ness;
We for-fei-ted our lives, yet are ac-quit-ted—
God is com-mit-ted.*

THE SIXTH WORD

SELECTIONS FROM HEBREWS 9:11-28; JOHN 19:30

P: When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not manmade, that is to say, not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.

For this reason Christ is the Mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him...

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, *“It is finished.”*

P: Let us pray:

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

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.

THE SIXTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED.

*all sing: I'll think up-on your mer-cy with-out cea-sing,
That earth's vain joys to me no more be plea-sing;
To do your will shall be my sole en-dea-vor
Hence-forth for-ev-er.*

THE SEVENTH WORD

LUKE 23:44-46; MATTHEW 27:54

P: 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...

When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, “Surely he was the Son of God!”

silence for meditation

THE SEVENTH CANDLE REMAINS.

*all sing: And when, dear Lord, be-fore your throne in hea-ven
To me the crown of joy at last is gi-ven,
Where swee-test hymns your saints for-ev-er raise you,
I too shall praise you.*

JESUS GOES TO HIS TOMB.

DEATH CANNOT CONTAIN HIM.

The congregation may remain for prayer and meditation before dispersing quietly.

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Online: stjohnclare.org (-or-) faithlutheranharrison.com

YouTube: ‘St John Lutheran, Clare’

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THE WORDS APPLIED

LUKE 24:23-34

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?”

They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

“What things?” he asked.

“About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.”

He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.