

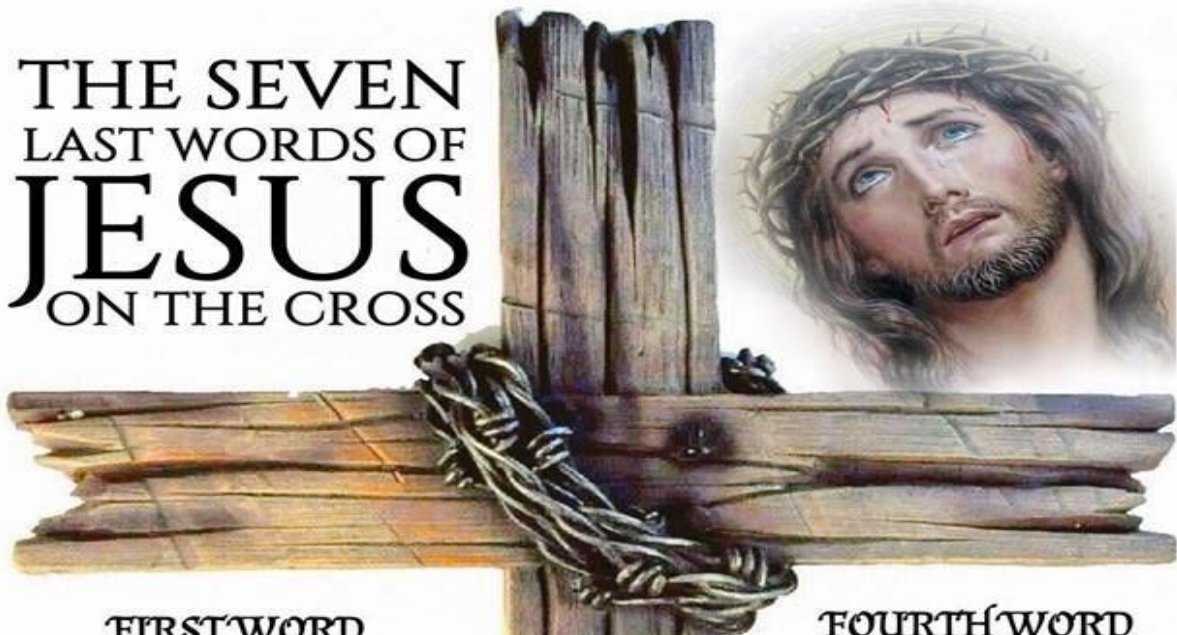
# **SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST**

## **Good Friday Service**

### **Tenebrae**

**March 29, 2024**

#### **THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF JESUS ON THE CROSS**



#### **FIRST WORD**

**"FATHER, FORGIVE THEM,  
FOR THEY KNOW NOT  
WHAT THEY DO."**

**-LUKE 23: 34**

#### **SECOND WORD**

**"AMEN I SAY TO THEE,  
THIS DAY THOU SHALT BE  
WITH ME IN PARADISE."**

**-LUKE 23: 43**

#### **THIRD WORD**

**"WOMAN, BEHOLD THY  
SON. AFTER THAT, HE  
SAID TO THE DISCIPLE:  
BEHOLD THY MOTHER."**

**-JOHN 19: 26-27**

#### **FOURTH WORD**

**"ELI, ELI, LAMMA  
SABACTHANI? THAT IS,  
MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY  
HAST THOU FORSAKEN  
ME?" -MATT 27:46**

#### **FIFTH WORD**

**"I THIRST." -JOHN 19:28**

#### **SIXTH WORD**

**"IT IS CONSUMMATED."  
-JOHN 19:30**

#### **SEVENTH WORD**

**"FATHER, INTO THY  
HANDS I COMMEND MY  
SPIRIT." -LUKE 23:46**

## ***The Order of Service***

### ***THE PRELUDE (Lighting of the candles)***

**PRAYER:** *(stand)*

**C:** Lord Jesus, Christ, as I meditate in this service on Your death for me, let those final sentences which You spoke from the cross impart a personal blessing, that I may both worship in spirit and truth and be moved to sacrifice my whole life as an offering to You. Amen.

### **GREETING**

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** And also with you.

**THE CONFESSION OF SINS:** *(Pastor and congregation)*

**O** most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us, and for his sake grant us remission of all our sins: and by your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of your will, and true obedience to your Word, that by your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**THE ABSOLUTION:** *(Pastor)*

**P:** The Almighty and merciful God grant unto you, being penitent, pardon and remission of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of His Holy Spirit.

**A:** Amen.

**THE PSALMODY:** *(sit)*

“Out of the Depth I Cry to You” *ELW Hymn 600 (Psalm 130)*

**THE GLORIA PATRI:**

**P:** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:

**C.** As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, life without end. Amen.

**THE AGNUS DEI:**

“O Lamb of God” *(Oi Jumilan Karistia) ELW Hymn 197*

**THE SERVICE OF HEALING**

**P:** Our Lord Jesus healed many who were sick as a sign of the reign of God come near, and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing. Through prayer in Jesus’s name, and by the laying on of hands and anointing, the disciples witnessed to the power and presence of God. In the name of Christ, the great healer and reconciler of the world, we now entrust to God all who are in need of healing and hope. We offer our prayers for those who are gathered here, and especially for name/s. We commend them to the grace of Jesus Christ, that God may ease their suffering and grant them health and salvation.

## LITANY FOR HEALING

L: Let us pray for all who are in need of healing and hope. Loving God, our source and our final home, we give you thanks for the gifts of life on earth and of new life in baptism. In your great mercy,

**C: hear us, O God.**

L: Merciful God, by the wounds of your Son we are healed. Bring health and hope to all your people. In your great mercy,

**C: hear us, O God.**

L: Holy God, your Spirit came over the waters of baptism and brought us into the communion of saints. Renew in us the grace of baptism, by which we share in Christ's death and resurrection. In your great mercy,

**C: hear us, O God.**

L: Mighty God, whose Son brought healing and wholeness to all, bring your healing presence now to all who are sick or in pain, and to all who have lost hope. In your great mercy,

**C: hear us, O God.**

L: Gentle God, your Son called little children to himself. Help all children who are sick or disabled, take them in your loving arms, and nourish them with your grace. In your great mercy,

**C: hear us, O God.**

L: Compassionate God, the strength of those who suffer, bring hope and peace to all who are in mental, physical, or spiritual distress. In your great mercy,

**C: hear us, O God.**

L: Almighty God, source of human knowledge, give skill, wisdom, and compassion to all who provide medical care. In your great mercy,

**C: hear us, O God.**

L: Loving God, our creator and redeemer, give gentleness and hope to family members, friends, and caregivers of those who suffer. In your great mercy,

**C: hear us, O God.**

*Other petitions may be offered. The presiding minister concludes the prayers:*

L: God of great and abundant mercy, with your presence sustain name/s and all whom we name before you. Drive away their suffering, give them firm hope, and strengthen their trust in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

## BLESSING OF OIL

P: We give you thanks, O God, source of life and health, for in Jesus you became flesh and came to know the depth of human suffering. You sent the disciples to heal those who were sick. Bless this oil, that all who are anointed with it may be healed, strengthened, and renewed by the power of your Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

## LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANOINTING

P: The ministry of Jesus invites us to new life in God and with each other. In the laying on of hands (and anointing), we proclaim the good news that God desires us to be healthy and one in the body of Christ. You are invited to offer yourself, whatever your sickness of spirit, mind, or body, and receive a sign of healing and wholeness in the name of the triune God.

*“The Power of the Cross” (Casting Crowns)*

*“Give Me Jesus” (Jeremy Camp)*

*“Even If” (Mercy Me)*

*The minister anoints the person’s forehead with oil, making the sign of the cross and saying:*

P: Almighty God bless you with the healing power of the Holy Spirit, release you from suffering, and restore you to wholeness; through + Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

*(Stand) After all have returned to their places, the presiding minister continues:*

P: Let us pray. Living God, through this holy anointing grant our sisters and brothers comfort in their suffering. When they are afraid, give them courage, when afflicted, give them patience, when dejected, afford them hope, and when alone, assure them of the support of your holy people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

## LORD’S PRAYER

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

## THE MEDITATIONS: “The Seven Last Words”

*Hymn Tune Southwell*

**The First Sentence:** *“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.” (Luke 23:32-34)*

33 When 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. [34 Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”]

*Hymn Part 1 (1st candle extinguished) Southwell*

**Our Savior speaks in grace, with words of mercy true:**

**“Forgive them Father”, thus He prays; “They know not what they do.”**

**The Second Sentence:** *“Truly I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.” (Luke 23:39-43)*

39 One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” 40 But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41 And we indeed have been con-

demned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” 42 Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” 43 He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

*Hymn, Part 2 (2nd candle extinguished)*

**His wondrous pity see! Unto the thief; he cries:  
“Today I tell you, you will be with Me in Paradise**

**The Third Sentence:** *“Woman, behold your son! Behold, your mother.” (John 19:26&27)*

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

*Hymn, Part 3 (3rd candle extinguished)*

**To Mary looking on, “Behold your son” He says.:  
“Behold your mother”; thus on John love’s burden gently lays.**

**The Fourth Sentence:** *“My God, my God, why has thou forsaken me?” (Mat. 27:46)*

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?”

*Hymn, Part 4 (4th candle extinguished)*

**Now hear the awful cry, Sin’s dreadful burden see  
“My God, My God,” the Son shouts “Why have You forsaken Me?”**

**The Fifth Sentence:** *“I Thirst” (John 19:28-29)*

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

*Hymn, Part 5 (5th candle extinguished)*

**As Man for us he dies. Sin’s pow’r has done its worst.  
From hell’s dread agony He cries a simple word: “I thirst.”**

**The Sixth Sentence:** *“It is finished.” (John 19:30)*

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

*Hymn, Part 6 (6th candle extinguished)*

**“Tis finished,” says the Lord. The burden on Him laid.  
Of sinful thought and deed and word-The debt is fully paid.**

**The Seventh Sentence:** *“Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit!” (Luke 23:46)*

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

*Hymn, Part 7 (7th candle extinguished)*  
**“Father, into Your hands my spirit I commend.”**  
**And He who hears and understand receives Him in the end**

**THE EXIT OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**THE CLOSING OF THE BOOK**

**THE SILENT PRAYER**

**LEAVE IN SILENCE**

***Note: There will be no postlude. After your prayer, please leave the church silently. You may leave your offering at the door as you depart***

**Explanation of the Service:**

This service is patterned after the ancient office of Tenebrae. The word “Tenebrae” means darkness. The purpose of the service is to impress upon us the terrible reality of sin, which caused our Savior to die for us.

A total of eight candles are to be used in this worship service. Seven of these candles represent the seven last sentences, which our Savior spoke from the Cross and the eighth candle is the Christ Candle.

As the seven candles are extinguished one by one, causing the chancel to become increasingly darkened, we are reminded of the darkness that covered the earth at the time our Lord spoke these words at His crucifixion. It also serves as a reminder of the spiritual darkness that would exist had the Light of the world not come.

The exit of the Christ Candle, near the close of the service, signifies Christ’s death and burial. When the book is lifted a few inches from the altar and slammed back down to create a definite closing sound, this acknowledges that with the sealed tomb the meaning of the cross is fulfilled, the sacrifice completed. The Christ Candle is not extinguished at any time during the service, as it is symbolic of the eternal light of God’s love.

Though evil had its hour, the light of God’s love continues to burn to all eternity.

**Join us here on Easter morning and rejoice in the glorious message of the Risen Christ**