

Good Friday

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you

P: Let us pray:

C: Almighty God, we ask you to look with mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be given over to the hands of sinners and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Septem Voce – The Seven Last Words

the first word

luke 23:32-34

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with *Jesus*. When they came to the place that is called “The Skull,” they crucified *him* there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said . . .

Cantor: “Father forgive them for they know not what they do”

1. Jesus, in thy dying woes,
Even while thy life-blood flows,
Craving pardon for thy foes:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

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

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

The extinguishing of a candle & silence for meditation

P: Let us pray:

C: As we recall the events of your death, and remember the darkness of that day, we ask that you take away any darkness in our lives, in our hearts, and in our minds. Remove the veils of guilt, hopelessness and fear, that we will see the glory you bring to each of us and the world through your faithfulness. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at *Jesus*, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!"

The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong."

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."
Jesus replied . . .

Cantor: "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise."

1. Jesus, pitying the sighs
Of the thief who near Thee dies,
Promising him Paradise:
Hear us, Holy Jesus.

2. May we in our guilt and shame,
Still Thy love and mercy claim,

Calling humbly on Thy Name:
Hear us, Holy Jesus.

3. May our hearts to Thee incline,
Looking from our cross to Thine;
Cheer our souls with hope divine:
Hear us, Holy Jesus.

The extinguishing of a candle & silence for meditation

P: Let us pray:

C: Lord Jesus Christ, remember us when you come into your kingdom. Remember us, not for our impressive accomplishments, nor for the virtues we occasionally display. Remember us as those who struggle to remain faithful, who desire to speak well of you with our lives. Remember us as those in need of your benediction and grace. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top.

So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it."

This was to fulfill what the scripture says,

*"They divided my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots."*

And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother . . .

Cantor: "Woman, behold thy Son. Behold thy mother."

1. Jesus, loving to the end
Her whose hart Thy sorrows rend,
And Thy dearest human friend:
Hear us, Holy Jesus.

2. May we in Thy sorrows share,
For Thy sake all peril dare,

And enjoy Thy tender care:
Hear us, Holy Jesus.

3. May we all Thy loved ones be,
All one holy family,
Loving for the love of Thee:
Hear us, Holy Jesus.

The extinguishing of a candle & silence for meditation

P: Let us pray:

C: O blessed Savior, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, as you cared for your family then, continue to care for your family now. Bring your community together so that we may support one another in all our needs. May we especially be the source of your compassion for those who are mourning, for the widows and for any who have no one to care for them. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

the fourth word

matthew 27:45-49

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*" that is . . .

Cantor: "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

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| 1. Jesus, whelmed in fears unknown,
With our evil left alone,
While no light from heaven is shown:
Hear us, Holy Jesus. | In the darkness be our stay:
Hear us, Holy Jesus. |
| 2. When we seem in vain to pray,
And our hope seems far away, | 3. Though no Father seem to hear,
Though no light our spirits cheer,
May we know that God is near;
Hear us, Holy Jesus. |

The extinguishing of a candle & silence for meditation

P: Let us pray:

C: Holy God, you always hear our cries and listen to our sorrows. We trust in your promise that you will never forsake us. And so we confess to you those times when we have forsaken others and ask that you strengthen us in our faithfulness to our word. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

the fifth word

john 19:28

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture) . . .

Cantor: "I thirst"

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| 1. Jesus, in thy thirst and pain,
While thy wounds thy lifeblood drain,
Thirsting more our love to gain:
Hear us, holy Jesus. | Satisfy thy loving will:
Hear us, holy Jesus. |
| 2. Thirst for us in mercy still;
All thy holy work fulfill: | 3. May we thirst thy love to know;
Lead us in our sin and woe
Where the healing waters flow:
Hear us, holy Jesus. |

The extinguishing of a candle & silence for meditation

P: Let us pray:

C: O blessed Savior, you never leave us hungering or thirsting, but fill our souls by the invitation to your table and your presence. As we are fed by you, let us not forget to provide for the needs of our neighbors; giving drink to the thirsty, food to the hungry, treatment to the ill, love to the forgotten, and forgiveness to the repentant. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

the sixth word

John 19:30

A 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.
When Jesus had received the wine, he said . . .

Cantor: "It is finished."

1. Jesus, all our ransom paid,
All Thy Father's will obeyed;
By Thy sufferings perfect made:
Hear us, Holy Jesus.

2. Save us in our soul's distress;
Be our help to cheer and bless,
While we grow in holiness:

Hear us, Holy Jesus.

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

The extinguishing of a candle & silence for meditation

P: Let us pray:

C: Lord Jesus, you finished the work you were sent to do. Now enable us, by your Holy Spirit, to be faithful to our call to accomplish the work you have called us to do. Do not let us grow complacent or weary in the face of all that needs to be done. Give us the confidence to work in the hope that you will bring all good works to their fulfillment on that great day when you return in the fullness of your glory. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

the seventh word

luke 23:44-56

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two.

Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said . . .

Cantor: "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit."

1. Jesus, all thy labor vast,
All Thy woe and conflict past;
Yielding up thy soul at last:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

Keep us in that trial hour:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

2. When the death shades round us low'r,
Guard us from the tempter's pow'r,

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

The extinguishing of a candle & silence for meditation

But saying this, Jesus breathed his last.

Behold, when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent."

And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid.

[A loud sound signifies the closing of the tomb]

It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments.

Hymn

What Wondrous Love is This

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and

won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
 I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,

that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
 be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Bidding Prayer

P: Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy Church of God throughout the world, that God the almighty Father guide it and gather it together, so that we may worship him in peace and tranquility.

[silence for prayer]

Almighty and eternal God,

C: you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. Guide the work of the Church. Help it to preserve in faith, proclaim your name, and bring salvation to people everywhere. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: Let us pray for Bishop Eaton and Bishop Egensteiner, for all pastors and other ministers, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people of God.

[silence for prayer]

Almighty and eternal God,

C: your Spirit guides the Church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our pastors and our leaders; keep them in health and safety for the good of the Church and help each of us to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

P: Let us pray for those preparing for Baptism, that God make them responsive to his love, and give them new life in Jesus Christ.

[silence for prayer]

Almighty and eternal God,

C: you continually bless the Church with new members. Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for Baptism. Give them a new birth as your children and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: Let us pray for all our brothers and sisters who share our faith in Jesus Christ, that God may gather and keep together in one Church all those who know Christ as Lord.

[silence for prayer]

Almighty and eternal God,

C: you give your Church its unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. We are all consecrated to you by our Baptism; make us one in the fullness of faith, and keep us one in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to bear the Word of God, that they may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises.

[silence for prayer]

Almighty and eternal God,

C: long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and his posterity. Hear the prayers of your Church that the people you first made your own may arrive with us at the fullness of redemption. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: Let us pray for those who do not believe in Christ, that the light of the Holy Spirit may show them the way of salvation.

[silence for prayer]

Almighty and eternal God,

C: enable those who do not acknowledge Christ to receive the truth of the Gospel. Help us, your people, to grow in love for one another, to grasp more fully the mystery of your Godhead, and so to become more perfect witnesses of your love in the sight of all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: Let us pray for those who do not believe in God, that they may find him who is the author and goal of our existence.

[silence for prayer]

Almighty and eternal God,

C: you created humanity so that all might long to know you and have peace in you. Grant that, in spite of the hurtful things that stand in their way, they may all recognize in the lives of Christians the tokens of your love and mercy, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God and Father of us all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: Let us pray for those who serve in public office, that God may guide their minds and hearts, so that all of us may live in true peace and freedom.

[silence for prayer]

Almighty and eternal God,

C: you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, watch over those in authority, so that people everywhere may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: Let us pray that God, the almighty and merciful Father, may heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and rid the world of falsehood, hunger, and disease.

[silence for prayer]

Almighty and eternal God,

C: you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask.

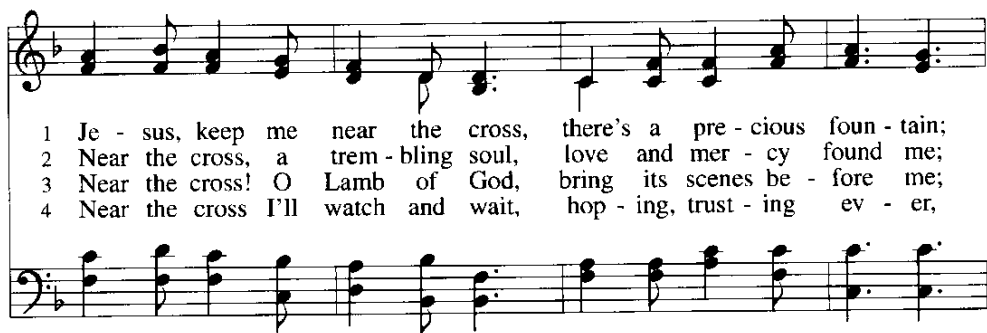
[silence for prayer]

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; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory now and forever. Amen.

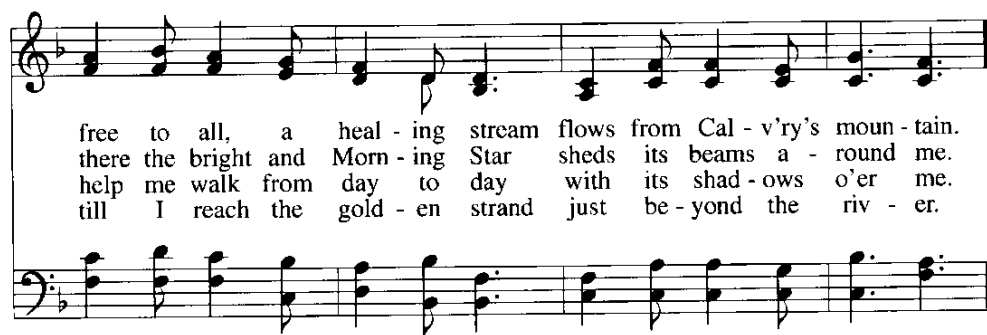
P: We adore you O Christ, and we bless you.

C: By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Hymn

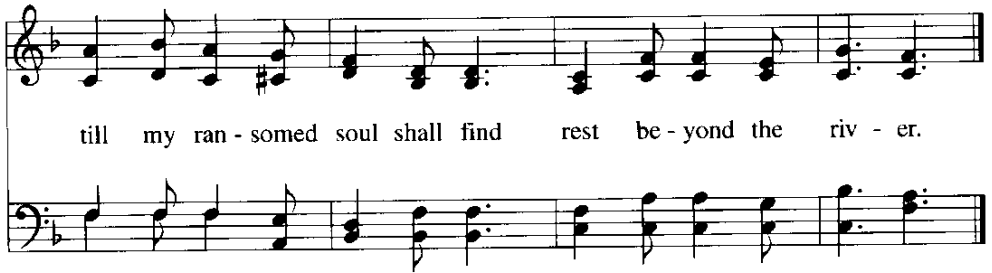


1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and Morn - ing Star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ows o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



A period of prayer and meditation may be observed. Contemplation might focus on: times when you have abandoned Christ or felt abandoned by Him; times when God's leading in your life did not take the direction you expected; times of waiting; your sins which Christ takes to the grave for you; the joyful memories of our beloved who have died and for whom we wait in the coming day of resurrection.

Please leave in silence

*The liturgy does not end today,
but continues with the Easter Vigil at 7:00 p.m. tomorrow.*