



JESUS' WORDS FROM THE CROSS

Good Friday

Tenebrae

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**Good Friday
Seven Times He Spoke
April 18, 2025**

Before Service Prayer: 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, forever and ever. Amen.

The Order of the Tenebrae

The Tenebrae service is a traditional service of the Christian Church used during Holy Week to impress upon the minds and hearts of believers the awful consequences of sin and the magnitude of the Savior's sacrifice. The word Tenebrae means "darkness" and reminds us of the darkness that covered the earth at the time of Jesus' crucifixion. The gradual dimming of the lights symbolizes the resentment and hatred of the world over against the Savior. The loud sound of the book closing toward the end of the service foreshadows the rending of Christ's tomb in triumph at Easter. The removal of the Christ Candle at the end of the service symbolizes the death of Christ and the return of the Christ Candle symbolizes His resurrection. The Tenebrae Service of Darkness is not a liturgical "funeral" for Jesus, but an austere service of reflection, intercession, adoration of the Lamb, and quiet meditation.

PLEASE REMEMBER that though evil had its hour, the light of God's love continues to burn to all eternity. Join us here on Easter morning at the festival service and rejoice in the glorious message of the risen Christ.

(Ministers and worshipers gather in silence.)

Invocation and Responsive Reading.....John 3:16-17

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son,

C: That whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

P: For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world,

C: But to save the world through Him.

Sermon Text: **Luke 23:46**

Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.” When He had said this, He breathed His last.

Sermon Theme: He Spoke a Word of Trust

The Bidding Prayer (Brent Anderson)

(The congregation is “bidden” to pray each petition. The congregation responds with “Amen” after each of the petitions which end “through Jesus Christ our Lord.”)

Seven Words of Jesus from the Cross

(The Tenebrae candles are lit.)

The First Word – **Luke 23:26-34** (Mike Spangle)

²⁶ As the soldiers 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. ²⁷ A large number of people followed Him, including women who mourned and wailed for Him. ²⁸ Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me; weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ For the time will come when you will say, ‘Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ ³⁰ Then

“they will say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us!’
and to the hills, ‘Cover us!’”

³¹ For if people do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

³² Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with Him to be executed. ³³ When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified Him there, along with the criminals—one on His

right, the other on His left. ³⁴ Jesus said, **“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”** And they divided up His clothes by casting lots.

Hymn Response: **CW425 “Go to Dark Gethsemane” (CW 93 104)**

**Go to dark Gethsemane, All who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see; Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away; Learn of Jesus Christ to pray.**

**Follow to the judgment hall; View the Lord of life arraigned;
O the worm-wood and the gall! O the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss; Learn of Him to bear the cross.**

**Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb There adoring at His feet,
Mark the miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete:
"It is finished!" Hear Him cry; Learn of Jesus Christ to die.**

**Early hasten to the tomb Where they laid His breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom; Who hath taken Him away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes: Savior, teach us so to rise.**

The first candle is extinguished.

The Second Word – **Luke 23:38-43** (Joe Berg)

³⁸ There was a written notice above Him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

³⁹ One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at Him: “Aren’t You the Messiah? Save Yourself and us!”

⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.”

⁴³ Jesus answered him, **“Truly I tell you, today you will be with Me in paradise.”**

Hymn Response: “Do Lord, Do Lord, Do Remember Me.” (*First verse sung by the pastor, verses 2-4 sung by the congregation. An African-American spiritual.*)

Do Lord, do Lord, Do remember me. Do Lord, do Lord, Do remember me,
Do Lord, do Lord, Do remember me, O do Lord, remember me.

**When I'm in trouble, Do remember me. When I'm in trouble, Do remember me,
When I'm in trouble, Do remember me, O do Lord, remember me.**

**When I'm dyin', Do remember me, When I'm dyin', Do remember me,
When I'm dyin', Do remember me, O do Lord, remember me.**

**When this world's on fire, Do remember me. When this world's on fire, Do remember me,
When this world's on fire, Do remember me, O do Lord, remember me.**

The second candle is extinguished.

The Third Word – **John 19:25-27** (Ken Sarvady)

²⁵ Near the cross of Jesus stood His mother, His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw His mother there, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to her, “**Woman, here is your son,**” ²⁷ and to the disciple, “**Here is your mother.**” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Hymn Response: **CW 436** “The Seven Words” vs. 3 (CW93 105)

**A Savior like no other, all self-concern denied,
You served Your grieving mother while You were crucified.
My sin had made me filthy, but You the perfect child,
Were designated guilty, and I am reconciled.**

The third candle is extinguished.

The Fourth Word – **Matthew 27:45-49** (John Lester)

⁴⁵ From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. ⁴⁶ About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, **“Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?”** (which means **“My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?”**).

⁴⁷ When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.”

⁴⁸ Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. ⁴⁹ The rest said, “Now leave Him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save Him.”

Hymn Response: **CW 421** “Son of God, by God Forsaken” (*tune CW93 111*)

**Son of God, by God forsaken, hear Your people’s humble plea:
Source of life, by death o’ertaken, feed us from the baren tree.**

**Friend of sinners, none befriends You, left to die while all deride;
Sinless, yet not one defends You when condemned and crucified.**

**Son of Man, Your foes assail You, crown with cruel thorns Your brow.
King of kings, no sword avails You in Your hour of deepest woe.**

**Healer of the broken, anguished, nails Your hands and feet impale.
Lord of all, You hang there vanquished by the death Your friends bewail.**

**Light of Light, no brightness cheering rends the gloom of that dread day
Till Your mercy’s beams, appearing drive the clouds of sin away.**

The fourth candle is extinguished.

The Fifth Word – **John 19:28,29** (Toby James)

²⁸ Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, **“I am thirsty.”** ²⁹ 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.

Hymn Response: **CW 423** “The Power of the Cross” (*interlude between each verse*)

**Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day: Christ on the road to Calvary
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten then Nailed to the cross of wood**

**Refrain: This the power of the cross:
Christ became sin for us, took the blame, bore the wrath
We stand forgiven at the cross.**

**Oh to see the pain written on Your face Bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Every bitter thought every evil deed Crowning Your blood stained brow.**

**Refrain: This the power of the cross:
Christ became sin for us, took the blame, bore the wrath
We stand forgiven at the cross. (cont...)**

**Now the day light flees, now the ground beneath Quakes as its maker bows His head
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life; “Finished,” the victory cry.**

**Refrain: This the power of the cross
Christ became sin for us, took the blame, bore the wrath
We stand forgiven at the cross.**

**Oh, to see my name written in the wounds, for through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death; life is mine to live, won through Your selfless love!**

**Refrain: This the power of the cross
Son of God slain for us, What a love, what a cost!
We stand forgiven at the cross.**

The fifth candle is extinguished.

The Sixth Word – John 19:30 (Brent Anderson)

³⁰ When He had received the drink, Jesus said, “**It is finished.**” With that, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

Hymn Response: CW 427 “O Darkest Woe” (CW 93 137)

**O darkest woe! O tears, forth flow! Has earth so sad a wonder,
God the Father's only Son Now is buried yonder!**

**O sorrow dread! Our God is dead, upon the cross extended.
There His love enlivened us as His life was ending.**

**O child of woe: Who struck the blow that killed our gracious Master?
“It was I,” your conscience cries, “I have wrought disaster!”**

**All stained with blood the Lamb of God, the Bridegroom, lies before you,
Pouring out His life that He may to life restore you.**

**O Virgin's Son, what You have won is far beyond all telling:
How our God, detested, died, hell and devil feeling.**

The sixth candle is extinguished.

The Seventh Word – **Luke 23:44-46** (Joe Berg)

⁴⁴ It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵ for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Jesus called out with a loud voice, “**Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.**” When He had said this, He breathed His last.

Hymn Response: CW 437 “Rest, O Christ, From all Your Labor” (vs. 1-3) (CWS 718)

**Rest, O Christ, from all Your labor; Sleep within Your borrowed tomb.
Foes have crucified and bound You Fast within death's narrow room.
Pilate's guards stand watching, waiting Where they rolled the sealing stone.
All unseen another watches: God will not forsake His own.**

**Peace at last from all Your anguish, Wounds in hands and feet and side.
Enemies no longer mock You, Scourged, abandoned, crucified.
Faithful women gather spices, Weep for You whom sin has slain.
Though they mourn, the God who guards You Will not let Your death be vain.**

**Help us keep this solemn Sabbath As we wait for Easter dawn.
Earth's dark night of sin is passing; Death's long reign will soon be gone.
Christ, in whom the new creation Rises brighter than the sun:
May we, as we watch for morning, Trust the vict'ry You have won.**

The Christ Candle is removed, signifying the death of Jesus.

After a period of silence, used for silent prayer, a loud noise (called the strepitus) representing the rending of Christ's tomb is heard.

The Eighth Word: Matthew 27:57-66 (John Lester)

(There is, in one sense, an eighth word of Good Friday. It's the word spoken by the Jewish leaders and Pontius Pilate regarding the tomb of Jesus. To anyone who had witnessed the events of that day, this word might have appeared to be the last word—the slamming shut of a tomb, a life, and all hope. God gets the last word. He always does. And although we go home tonight with the slamming ringing in our ears, we know better than to go home without hope. We go home knowing that this last word of Good Friday is actually a good word, because it ensures that the only way someone could come out of that tomb would be if He were the very Son of God. It assures us that the tomb will be empty on Easter Sunday for only one reason: because our Savior didn't only give Himself up to death, He rose up and defeated it. Hear now the eighth word of Good Friday.)

⁵⁷ As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸ Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. ⁵⁹ Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, ⁶⁰ 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. ⁶¹ Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb.

⁶² The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. ⁶³ "Sir," they said, "we remember that while He was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' ⁶⁴ So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, His disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that He has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first."

⁶⁵ "Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." ⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

The Lord's Prayer (spoken softly by the congregation and pastor)

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

The Christ Candle is rekindled in the chancel.

Closing Solo: **CW 884** “Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See” (CW93, 219)

**Lord, when Your glory I shall see
And taste Your kingdom's pleasure,
Your blood my royal robe shall be,
My joy beyond all measure!
When I appear before Your throne,
Your righteousness shall be my crown;
With these I need not hide me.
And there, in garments richly wrought,
As Your own bride I shall be brought
To stand in joy beside You.**

The minister exits the chancel.

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

Offerings can be placed in the baskets on your way out of church this evening. Offerings can also be given electronically by using your smart phone and the QR code which takes you to the donation part of New Life's website.



Easter Sunday Schedule

--Easter Breakfast at 8:30 AM

--Easter Worship at 9:30 AM

--Easter Egg Hunt at 10:45 AM

