

Reflections from the Cross

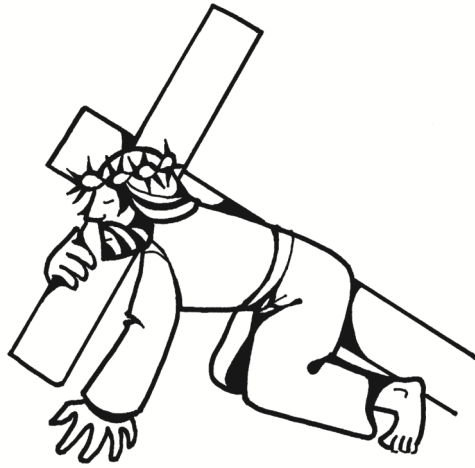
A Service for Good Friday

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Latrobe, Pennsylvania

Adapted from:
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A THREE-HOUR DEVOTION FOR GOOD FRIDAY

INTRODUCTION—12:00 Noon

(please stand)

Hymn

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

ELW #803

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

Amen.

Psalm 51 (Leader / Assembly)

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

³For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom
deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your
bountiful Spirit.**

¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.

¹⁴Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

¹⁵O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare your praise.

¹⁶For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it. You are not pleased with burnt offering.

¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

¹⁸Favor Zion with your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem.

¹⁹Then you will delight in the appointed sacrifices, in burnt and whole offerings; then young bulls shall be offered upon your altar.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayer

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins with his life's blood, who made of us a royal house, to serve as the priests of his God and Father—to him be glory and dominion forever and ever.

Amen.

We lift our voices in prayer to you, O Christ.

As we come together to worship on this Good Friday,

Our lives have been fully enriched by your life-giving Word.

May we be touched by the Gospel writers' accounts of these words, his words, given to us in the scriptures,

The account of your life before, during, and after your crucifixion.

O Lord, it is your gift to us as we hear again the recorded events of your hours upon the cross, high upon the crest of Golgotha.

O Christ, may we experience the courage, the strength, the compassion, the spirituality, the forgiveness, and the tender love you gave to each of us from there upon your cross.

May we return to our daily lives and share your gracious gift of life to all the world.

In your name we pray with you, as you taught us to pray:

**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.**

(Assembly seated for meditation and adoration)

<p>The First Word From the Cross 12:10 pm</p>

(please stand)
Hymn

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

ELW #335

Psalm 12 (Leader / Assembly)

¹Help me, LORD, for there is no godly one left;
the faithful have vanished from among us.

²**People tell lies to each other; they use smooth words but speak from
a double heart.**

³May the LORD cut off all lips that flatter, and the tongues that speak boastfully—

⁴**those who say, "With our tongue we will prevail; our lips are our own;
who is lord over us?"**

⁵"Because the needy are oppressed, and the poor cry out in misery,
I will rise up," says the LORD, "and give them the help they long for."

⁶**The words of the LORD are pure,
like silver refined from ore and purified seven times in the fire.**

⁷O LORD, watch over us and save us from this generation forever.

⁸**The wicked prowl on every side, and everyone prizes that which is worthless.**

The Lesson

Luke 23:26-34

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. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.’ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us’; and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. 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. Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Meditation on the First Word from the Cross

(please be seated)

“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” —Luke 23:34

(please stand)

Litany Hymn of the Passion

“Jesus, in Thy Dying Woes”

Part I

1 Je - sus, in thy dy - ing woes, e - ven while thy life - blood flows,
2 Sav - ior, for our par - don sue when our sins thy pangs re - new,
3 Oh, may we, who mer - cy need, be like thee in heart and deed,

crav - ing par - don for thy foes:
for we know not what we do: hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.
when with wrong our spir - its bleed:

The Prayer

(please kneel/sit)

Leader: Jesus said, “And I shall draw all people to Myself, when I am lifted up from the earth.”

Preacher: “God forbid that I should boast of anything but the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world is crucified to me and I to the world!”

Leader: Let us pray for the spirit of forgiving love which prompted Jesus to endure the Cross.

Preacher: Lord God, graft within us those qualities of character which will help us to be gentle and patient, so that we may not yield to revenge and seek to get even. For the sake of reconciliation, show us how to turn the other cheek and walk the second mile.

Strengthen us that we may be forgiving.

Leader: Let us pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit, that through His power our faith will increase.

Preacher: O Lord, we confess that we too easily forget that we belong to the age of Christ and His forgiveness. Don't let the world around us squeeze us into its mold.

“Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.”

(Silent prayer)

Preacher: To Him who loves us and freed us from our sins with His life's blood, who made of us a royal house, to serve as the priests of His God and Father — to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever!

Amen.

(Assembly seated for meditation and adoration)

<p>The Second Word From the Cross 12:40 pm</p>
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(please stand)

Hymn

“Jesus Remember Me”

ELW #616

Psalm 32 (Leader / Assembly)

¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

²**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

⁴**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as
in the heat of summer.**

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the
guilt of my sin.

⁶**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with
shouts of deliverance.

⁸**I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you
with my eye.**

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;

who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

¹⁰**Great are the tribulations of the wicked;**

but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy,
all who are true of heart.

The Lesson

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!" 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." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Meditation on the Second Word from the Cross

(please be seated)

"Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." — Luke 23:43

(please stand)

Litany Hymn of the Passion

“Jesus, in Thy Dying Woes” Part II

4 Jesus, pitying the sighs
Of the thief, who near thee dies,
Promising him paradise:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

5 May we in our guilt and shame
Still thy love and mercy claim,
Calling humbly on thy name:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

6 May our hearts to thee incline
Looking from our cross to thine.
Cheer our souls with hope divine:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

The Prayer

(please kneel or sit)

Leader: Jesus said, “And I shall draw all people to Myself, when I am lifted from the earth.”

Preacher: “God forbid that I should boast of anything but the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world is crucified to me and I to the world!”

Leader: Let us pray that our Lord Jesus Christ, by the power of His holy cross, will draw all people to Himself in willing confession and loving surrender.

Preacher: O Lord Christ, on the cross You demonstrated the yearning mercy of Your Father. Look with compassion upon all who have been confronted by your love, yet have put off giving full allegiance and devotion to what they know to be true. Out of mercy, speed the time when all persons attracted by Your cross will call You “Lord” to the glory of Your Father.

Dear Lord, may we accept Your way for our lives.

Leader: Let us pray through our Lord Jesus Christ that, having chosen His way now, we may be received by Him when our life on earth is ended.

Preacher: O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the true God, You were crucified to reclaim the world. You poured out Your lifeblood to pay for our sins. With humble hearts, we ask that, when our lives shall end, we may in joy hear You say to us, “Today you will be in paradise with me.”

We want to belong to You always.

Leader: Let us pray for the entire Christian Church, asking God in His grace to defend it against the hatred and suspicion of those who oppose it, and to keep it rooted in the source of its existence, Jesus Christ.

Preacher: Holy Spirit of God, pour out Your strength upon the Church. Open hearts to receive Your power; direct those lost by willful choice to find their way home. Continue to redeem us from our fears, hates, and prejudices. Let the whole world see that the broken can be repaired, the old made new, and the lost found through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We are Your children, Lord.

(Silent Prayer)

Preacher: To Him who loves us and freed us from our sins with His life's blood, who made of us a royal house, to serve as the priests of His God and Father — to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever!

Amen.

(Assembly seated for meditation and adoration)

<p>The Third Word From The Cross 1:00 pm</p>
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(please stand)

Hymn

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

ELW #338

Psalm 38 (Leader / Assembly)

¹O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger; do not punish me in your wrath.

²**For your arrows have already pierced me,
and your hand presses hard upon me.**

³There is no health in my flesh, because of your indignation;
there is no soundness in my body, because of my sin.

⁴**For my iniquities overwhelm me;
like a heavy burden they are too much for me to bear.**

⁵My wounds stink and fester by reason of my foolishness.

⁶**I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; I go about in mourning all the day long.**

⁷My loins are filled with searing pain; there is no health in my body.

⁸**I am utterly numb and crushed; I wail, because of the groaning of my heart.**

⁹O Lord, you know all my desires, and my sighing is not hidden from you.

¹⁰**My heart is pounding, my strength has failed me, and the brightness of my eyes
is gone from me.**

¹¹My friends and companions draw back from my affliction;
my neighbors stand afar off.

¹²**Those who seek after my life lay snares for me; those who strive to hurt me
speak of my ruin and plot treachery all the day long.**

¹³But I am like the deaf who do not hear, like those who are mute and do not open their mouth.

¹⁴**I have become like one who does not hear and from whose mouth comes no defense.**

¹⁵For in you, O LORD, have I fixed my hope; you will answer me, O Lord my God.

¹⁶**For I said, "Do not let them rejoice at my expense, those who gloat over me when my foot slips."**

¹⁷Truly, I am on the verge of falling, and my pain is always with me.

¹⁸**For I admit my iniquity and am deeply troubled over my sinfulness.**

¹⁹Many are those who are my mortal enemies, and numerous are those liars who hate me.

²⁰**They repay evil for good; they accuse me, though I pursue what is right.**

²¹O LORD, do not forsake me; be not far from me, O my God.

²²**Make haste to help me, O Lord of my salvation.**

The Lesson

John 19:23-27

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, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Meditation on the Third Word from the Cross

(please be seated)

"When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.'" —John 19:26-27

(please stand)

Litany Hymn of the Passion

“Jesus, in Thy Dying Woes”

Part III

7 Jesus, loving to the end
Her whose heart thy sorrows rend,
And thy dearest human friend:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

8 May we in thy sorrows share,
For thy sake all peril dare,
And enjoy thy tender care:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

9 May we all thy loved ones be,
All one holy family,
Loving for the love of thee:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

The Prayer

(please kneel or sit)

Leader: Jesus said, “And I shall draw all people to Myself, when I am lifted up from the earth.”

Preacher: “God forbid that I should boast of anything but the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world is crucified to me and I to the world!”

Leader: Let us pray that by the example of our comforting Lord, we may learn to give true love to our parents and seek their well-being in all times and circumstances.

Preacher: O Lord Jesus Christ, even on the cross You remembered Your mother. We beg You by Your thoughtful example to waken in all sons and daughters that love for their parents which finds its source in You, so that children may provide for parents in their need and make their days on earth happy through faithful devotion.

Bring us to such devotion, O God.

Leader: Let us pray for our families and loved ones.

Preacher: O God, the Father of all humanity, You give us the choice to become Your children. Let us, as parents and children, husbands and wives, friends and neighbors, live as members of your household. Especially we pray for those in nursing homes, prisons, or any other place of confinement which separates them from home and family. Let each be assured of Your constant and tender love.

Help us to love as You have taught us, dear Lord.

Leader: Let us pray for people who do not know the satisfaction of being accepted in love.

Preacher: O God of love, we pray for all people who, because of their natures or of circumstances beyond their control, are not loved. Help us to accept others as You have accepted us, to love as we have first been loved by You. Remove the mask of our pride, and permit us to see the worth of those around us. Cause us to respect the desires and needs of people “above” us and “below” us in age, intellect, personality, and position; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

Help us all, O God.

(Silent Prayer)

Preacher: To Him who loves us and freed us from our sins with His life’s blood, who made of us a royal house, to serve as the priests of His God and Father — to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever!

Amen.

(Assembly seated for meditation and adoration)

<p>The Fourth Word From The Cross 1:25 pm</p>

Hymn

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

ELW #349

Psalm 22 (Leader / Assembly)

¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

²**My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer; by night, but I find no rest.**

³Yet you are the Holy One, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

⁴**Our ancestors put their trust in you, they trusted, and you rescued them.**

⁵They cried out to you and were delivered; they trusted in you and were not put to shame.

⁶**But as for me, I am a worm and not human,
scorned by all and despised by the people.**

⁷All who see me laugh me to scorn; they curl their lips; they shake their heads.

⁸**“Trust in the LORD; let the LORD deliver;
let God rescue him if God so delights in him.”**

⁹Yet you are the one who drew me forth from the womb, and kept me safe on my mother's breast.

¹⁰**I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born;
you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.**

¹¹Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is no one to help.

¹²**Many young bulls encircle me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me.**

¹³They open wide their jaws at me, like a slashing and roaring lion.

- ¹⁴I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint; my heart within my breast is melting wax.**
- ¹⁵My 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.
- ¹⁶Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers circles round me; they pierce my hands and my feet.**
- ¹⁷I can count all my bones while they stare at me and gloat.
- ¹⁸They divide my garments among them; for my clothing, they cast lots.**
- ¹⁹But you, O LORD, be not far away; O my help, hasten to my aid.
- ²⁰Deliver me from the sword, my life from the power of the dog.**
- ²¹Save me from the lion's mouth! From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.
- ²²I will declare your name to my people; in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.**
- ²³You 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.
- ²⁴For 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.**
- ²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.
- ²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**
- ²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.
- ²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**
- ²⁹Indeed, 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.
- ³⁰Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**
- ³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

The Lesson

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, "E'li, E'li, le-ma'sa-bach'thani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Meditation on the Fourth Word from the Cross

(please be seated)

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” — Matthew 27:46

(please stand)

Litany Hymn of the Passion

“Jesus, in Thy Dying Woes”

Part IV

10 Jesus, whelmed in fears unknown,
With our evil left alone,
While no light from heav’n is shown:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

11 When we seem in vain to pray
And our hope seems far away,
In the darkness be our stay:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

12 Though no Father seem to hear,
Though no light our spirits cheer,
May we know that God is near:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

The Prayer

(please kneel or sit)

Leader: Jesus said, “And I shall draw all people to Myself, when I am lifted up from the earth.”

Preacher: “God forbid that I should boast of anything but the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world is crucified to me and I to the world!”

Leader: Let us remember, O Lord, that You have examined and known us. You know us in our activity and in our rest. You know our thought and our memory. No word on our tongues is unknown to You.

Preacher: When can we escape Your Spirit, O God? Where can we flee Your presence? If we go to Heaven, You are there. If we make our bed in the world of the dead, again You are there. In our loneliness, we are never alone. In the inner room of our minds, where we live apart and solitary with awareness, memory, conscience, and fear, even there You are with us.

Let us never try to escape from You.

Leader: Let us pray that God will breathe into troubled lives His divine Spirit of confidence and courage.

Preacher: Gracious God, we pray for Your mercy for all who stumble beneath life’s cross, finding it too heavy to bear; for all who lose the road, finding it confusing and unmarked; for all who struggle against odds, losing hope and ending in despair.; for all who have no prayer to offer out of their pain. Enter in with Your Spirit, and sustain them until the day breaks and shadows flee away.

O God, never leave us alone.

Leader: In all times of aloneness and uncertainty, let us pray for the abiding courage to seek God's will. Grant us the discernment to remember that Christ has gone before us through the valley of the shadow.

Preacher: Almighty God, there are deep mysteries hidden from us in the cross, mysteries we have feared to descend and heights we have not yet dared to climb. Like little children, we stand viewing it, only half understanding what it is all about. Unveil to us something of its meaning, that we may live with its creative power through the One who is the Light of the World.

We ask to see all life through the cross of Christ.

(Silent Prayer)

Preacher: To Him who loves us and freed us from our sins with His life's blood, who made of us a royal house, to serve as priests of His God and Father — to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever!

Amen.

(Assembly seated for meditation and adoration)

<p>The Fifth Word From The Cross 1:45 pm</p>
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(please stand)
Hymn

“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”

ELW #337

Psalm 102 (Leader / Assembly)

¹Hear my prayer, O LORD, and let my cry come before you.

²**Hide not your face from me when I am in trouble.**

Incline your ear to me; when I call, make haste to answer me,

³for my days drift away like smoke, and my bones are hot as burning coals.

⁴**My heart is stricken like grass and withered, so that I forget to eat my bread.**

⁵Because of the voice of my groaning I am but skin and bones.

⁶**I have become like a vulture in the wilderness, like an owl among the ruins.**

⁷I lie awake and groan; I am like a sparrow, lonely on a housetop.

⁸**My enemies revile me all day long, and those who scoff at me have taken an oath against me.**

⁹For I have eaten ashes for bread and mingled my drink with weeping.

¹⁰**Because of your indignation and wrath you have lifted me up and thrown me away.**

¹¹My days pass away like a shadow, and I wither like the grass.

¹²**But you, O LORD, endure forever, and your name from age to age.**

¹³You will arise and have compassion on Zion,
for it is time to have mercy upon Jerusalem; indeed, the appointed time has come.

¹⁴**For your servants love the city's very rubble,
and are moved to pity even for its dust.**

¹⁵The nations shall fear your name, O LORD, and all the rulers of the earth your glory.

¹⁶**For you will build up Zion, and your glory will appear.**

¹⁷You will look with favor on the prayer of the homeless;
you will not despise their plea.

¹⁸**Let this be written for a future generation, so that a people yet unborn may
praise the LORD.**

¹⁹For you looked down from your holy place on high; from the heavens you beheld the
earth, O LORD,

²⁰**that you might hear the groan of the captive
and set free those condemned to die;**

²¹that they may declare your name in Zion and your praise in Jerusalem;

²²**when the peoples are gathered together,
and the kingdoms also, to serve the LORD.**

²³God has brought down my strength before my time,
shortening the number of my days;

²⁴**and I said, "O my God, do not take me away in the midst of my days;
your years endure throughout all generations."**

²⁵Long ago, O LORD, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the
work of your hands.

²⁶**They shall perish, but you will endure; they all shall wear out like a garment;
as clothing you will change them, and they shall be changed;**

²⁷but you are always the same, and your years will never end.

²⁸**The children of your servants shall continue, and their descendants shall stand
fast in your sight.**

The Lesson

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." 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.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Meditation on the Fifth Word from the Cross

(please be seated)

"...I am thirsty." —John 19:28b

(please stand)

Litany Hymn of the Passion

“Jesus, in Thy Dying Woes”

Part V

13 Jesus in thy thirst and pain,
While thy wounds thy lifeblood drain,
Thirsting more our love to gain:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

14 Thirst for us in mercy still
All thy holy work fulfill;
Satisfy thy loving will:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

15 May we thirst thy love to know;
Lead us in our sin and woe
Where the healing waters flow:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

The Prayer

(please kneel or sit)

Leader: Jesus said, “And I shall draw all people to Myself, when I am lifted up from the earth.”

Preacher: “God forbid that I should boast of anything but the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world is crucified to me and I to the world!”

Leader: Lord, You shared every kind of human suffering through Your Son. Let us pray that we may be strengthened through His mercy to endure whatever distress confronts us.

Preacher: Compassionate Father, we seek help for all men and women upon whom crosses are laid; for nations plagued with famine, pestilence, or war; for Christians suffering persecution because of their faith; for persons in danger by sea, land or air; and for any people oppressed with poverty or sickness, enduring distress of body or disturbance of mind.

We thirst in so many ways, O God.

Leader: Let us pray that God will strengthen the faith of all believers in Christ and keep them loyal in times of testing.

Preacher: O Father, You are conscious of the sparrow’s fall; speak to our hearts when courage fails, when we faint for fear, and when love grows cold. Make new within us the consciousness of Your everlasting faithfulness. Inspire us to lift up our eyes and see beyond the things that are close and present to the things which will last and endure.

Satisfy our thirst, O Lord.

Leader: Let us pray to God that we might be one in His Son, Jesus Christ.

Preacher: O Lord, in Your physical distress and yielding sacrifice, You paid the price with Your own lifeblood to be our glorious Savior. Challenge us in this time to relive the meaning of the cross. May we accept the peace intended for us and live in harmony with

one another, unsatisfied until we obey Your holy will. As we have been made one by Your death, may we in every way be made one by Your life to praise You in the unity of our faith and service.

You are the water of life, O Christ.

(Silent Prayer)

Preacher: To Him who loves us and freed us from our sins with His life's blood, who made of us a royal house, to serve as the priests of His God and Father — to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever!

Amen.

(Assembly seated for meditation and adoration)

<p style="text-align: center;">The Sixth Word From The Cross 2:10 pm</p>
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(please stand)

Hymn

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

ELW #351

Psalm 130 (Leader / Assembly)

¹Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

²**O LORD, hear my voice!**

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

³If you were to keep watch over sins, O LORD, who could stand?

⁴**Yet with you is forgiveness, in order that you may be feared.**

⁵I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits; in your word is my hope.

⁶**My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,
more than those who keep watch for the morning.**

⁷O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love;
with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

⁸**For the LORD shall redeem Israel from all their sins.**

The Lesson

John 19:30

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Meditation on the Sixth Word from the Cross

(please be seated)

“It is finished.”

—John 19:30a

(Please stand)

Litany Hymn of the Passion

“Jesus, in Thy Dying Woes”

Part VI

16 Jesus, all our ransom paid,
All thy Father’s will obeyed;
By thy sufferings perfect made:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

17 Save us in our soul’s distress;
Be our help to cheer and bless,
While we grow in holiness:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

18 Brighten all our heav’nward way
With an ever holier ray
Till we pass to perfect day:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

The Prayer

(please kneel or sit)

Leader: Jesus said, “And I shall draw all people to Myself, when I am lifted up from the earth.”

Preacher: “God forbid that I should boast of anything but the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world is crucified to me and I to the world!”

Leader: All is finished! ... Let us remember the ministry of Jesus Christ — His care and concern for the needs of all ages and conditions of life; His wisdom and teaching to bring all people in faith to see You, O God; and His obedience and self-control to serve your truth even to His death on the cross. May the redeeming power that has flowed from Christ Jesus’ suffering and death flood our lives this day.

Accomplish in us the good work begun by Christ, our Lord.

Leader: All is finished! ... Let us remember what our Lord fulfilled on the cross.

Preacher: Holy Savior, help us to recall the lengths to which Your love has gone: that, having loved Your own, You loved them to the very end; and that, while they were yet Your enemies, You died for them. Nail our rebellious natures to the cross, and bury our disobedience.

Enable us to love others as you love us.

Leader: All is finished! ... Let us pray to our merciful God that we may rest in Him, knowing that, whether we live or die, all is brought to completion in Christ.

Preacher: O God, in You the generations come and go. You are the strength of all who work and suffer, and the rest of the blessed dead. Lift us into light and love. Give us at last our place with those who have trusted in You, that we may rest in Your eternal changelessness. With the church serving on earth and the church triumphant in heaven, we add our words of thanks and praise to Your name.

All is finished!

(Silent Prayer)

Preacher: To Him who loves us and freed us from our sins with His life's blood, who made of us a royal house, to serve as the priests of His God and Father — to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever!

Amen.

(Assembly seated for meditation and adoration)

Choir anthem

<p>The Seventh Word From The Cross 2:35 pm</p>
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(Please stand)

Hymn

“They Crucified My Lord”

ELW #350

Psalm 31 (Leader / Assembly)

¹In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

²**Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.**

³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

⁴**Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower
of strength.**

⁵Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me,
O LORD, God of truth.

⁶**I hate those who cling to worthless idols, and I put my trust in the LORD.**

⁷I will rejoice and be glad because of your steadfast love;
for you have seen my affliction; you know my distress.

⁸**You have not handed me over to the power of the enemy;
you have set my feet in an open place.**

⁹Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; my eye is consumed with sorrow,
and also my throat and my belly.

¹⁰**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**

¹¹I am the scorn of my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors,
a dismay to my acquaintances; when they see me in the street they avoid me.

¹²**Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind; I am as useless as a broken pot.**

¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;
they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

- 14 But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. I have said, "You are my God.**
15 My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.
- 16 Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love."**
17 LORD, let me not be put to shame, for I have called on you;
rather, let the wicked be put to shame; let them be silenced by the grave.
- 18 Let the lying lips be silenced that speak against the righteous,**
haughtily, disdainfully, and with contempt.
- 19 How great is your goodness, which you have laid up for those who fear you;**
which you have done in the sight of all for those who put their trust in you.
- 20 You hide them in the protection of your presence from those who slander them;**
you keep them in your shelter from the strife of tongues.
- 21 Blessed are you, O LORD!**
for you have shown me the wonders of your love when I was under siege.
- 22 I said in my alarm, "I have been cut off from the sight of your eyes."**
Nevertheless, you heard the sound of my plea when I cried out to you.
- 23 Love the LORD, all you saints; the LORD protects the faithful,**
but repays in full those who act haughtily.
- 24 Be strong and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the LORD.**

The Lesson

Luke 23:44-49

It was 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, "Father, into your hands I commend my Spirit." And having said this, he breathed his last.

(Pause for a moment of silence.)

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.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Meditation on the Seventh Word from the Cross

"Father, into your hands I commend my Spirit."

(please be seated)

—Luke 23:46

(please stand)

Litany Hymn of the Passion

“Jesus, in Thy Dying Woes”

Part VII

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

20 When the death shades round us low’r,
Guard us from the tempter’s pow’r,
Keep us in that trial hour:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

21 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 Prayer

(please kneel or sit)

Leader: Jesus said, “And I shall draw all people to Myself, when I am lifted up from the earth.”

Preacher: “God forbid that I should boast of anything but the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world is crucified to me and I to the world!”

Leader: Let us pray God, our Heavenly Father, that when we are called upon to feel the sharpness of death, we will commit ourselves and our loved ones into His everlasting arms.

Preacher: Lord of life and death, bring us under the shadow of Your wings. Give us grace to wait for You in prayer and patience. You are nearer to us than our breath. Before we feel pain, You have shared the weight. Before sorrow darkens our days, You are present in the valley of our shadow. Keep us and guard us as we pass through any difficult or untrod way. May we bring Your love to others close to death, and find our trust in You when death comes to us.

Father, in Your hands we place our spirits.

(Silent Prayer)

Preacher: To Him who loves us and freed us from our sins with His life’s blood, who made of us a royal house, to serve as the priests of His God and Father—to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever!

Amen.

(continued)

Worthy is the Lamb, the Lamb that was slain, to receive all power and wealth, wisdom and might, honor and glory and praise! Praise and honor, glory and might, to Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb forever and ever. Great and marvelous are your deeds, O Lord God, Sovereign over all; just and true are your ways, King of the ages. Who shall not revere You, Lord, and do homage to your name? For You alone are holy. All nations shall come and worship in your presence, for your just dealings stand revealed. Alleluia! The Lord our God, Sovereign over all, has entered on His reign!

Preacher: May the God of peace, who raised from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in all good works so that you may do His will; and may He make of us what He would have us be through Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory forever and ever!"

Amen.

(please stand)

Hymn

"Christ, the Life of All the Living"

ELW #339

(When the ministers have left the front of the church, the people may kneel, silently pray the following prayer, and then leave the church reverently without speaking.)

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves to You. Help us turn over our lives to Your keeping, our abilities to Your service. May all the days that are left to us in this world be days of obedience and surrender, fulfilled through the death and resurrection of Your dear Son.

Let the redeeming power which has flowed from His sufferings pour into our spirits, so that we can leave this place in full assurance that our lives are reclaimed.

And, above all, may our gratitude to You be reflected in the care and concern which we show to others in the world where we live and work for Christ's sake. Amen.

Kindly return this booklet to the narthex or leave in the pew.