

In preparation for this liturgy, please silence all cell phones and devices.

# The Seven Last Words of Christ $\frac{1}{4}$

All gather in silence.

# **Opening Prayer**

All kneel.

LEADER: Lord, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, we kneel before your blessed cross. We want to open our spirits and hearts to contemplate your holy sufferings. We want to place your cross before our poor souls that we might know it a little better, that we might receive more deeply into our hearts all that you did and suffered, and that we might realize who it was for whom you suffered. May your grace be with us, the grace to shake off the coldness and indifference of our hearts, to forget our everyday life for at least this time and to dwell with you in love, sorrow, and gratitude. King of all hearts, may your crucified love embrace our hearts, filling us with compassion and love for you.

Let us pray:

ALL: Look down upon me, good and gentle Jesus, while before your face I humbly kneel, and with burning soul, I pray and beseech you to fix deep in my heart lively sentiments of faith, hope, and charity, true contrition for my sins, and a firm purpose of amendment; while I contemplate, with great love and tender pity, your five most precious wounds, pondering them over within me, calling to mind the words which David, your Prophet, said of you, my Jesus:

They have pierced my hands and my feet, they have numbered all my bones.

All are seated.

#### First Word

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."

### SILENT REFLECTION

#### Reflection

### Response



# SECOND WORD

Luke 23:39-43

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

# SILENT REFLECTION

# Reflection



#### Third Word

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, Behold, your mother." And from that hour, the disciple took her into his home.

#### SILENT REFLECTION

#### Reflection

#### Response

# That Virgin's Child, choir

That virgin's child so meek and mild, alonely for my sake, His Father's will for to fulfill, He came great pains to take. And suffered death, As Scripture saith, that we should saved be, On Good Friday: Wherefore I say, he mourned sore for me. Now Christ Jesu, of love most true, Have mercy upon me, I ask Thee grace for my trespass that I have done to Thee. For Thy sweet Name, save me from shame and all adversity: For Mary's sake, to Thee me take. And mourn no more for me.

Text: John Gwynneth (c. 1530)

# Fourth Word

From noon onward, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, eli, lema sabacthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

# SILENT REFLECTION

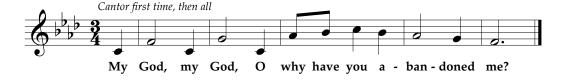
#### Reflection

#### Response



Marty Haugen

Matthew 27:45-46



Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)

John 19:25-27

#### **FIFTH WORD**

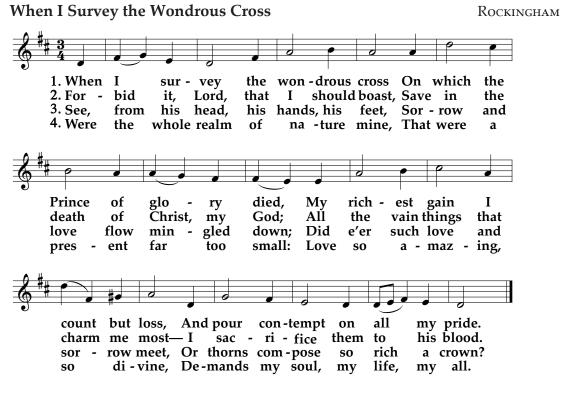
John 19:28

Aware that everything was now finished, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I thirst."

# SILENT REFLECTION

#### Reflection

#### Response





# Sixth Word

There was a vessel filled with common wine. So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth. When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, "It is finished."

# SILENT REFLECTION

Reflection

#### Response

Adoramus te Christe from Les Sept Paroles du Christ

Théodore Dubois (1837-1924)

Adoramus te, Christe, et benedicimus tibi: quia per sanctam crucem tuam redemisti mundum. We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you; For by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Text: St. Francis of Assisi



# Seventh Word

Luke 23:44-46

It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until about three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil in the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." And when he had said this he breathed his last.

SILENT REFLECTION

Reflection

#### Response **O** Sacred Head Surrounded PASSION CHORALE **1.** O Sa - cred Head sur round - ed Bv crown of pierc-ing 2. I AĬI fad - ing see your strength and vig or in the 3. In sion, Good Shep - herd think of this, your bit - ter pas wound - ed, Re - viled and put to thorn! bleed - ing Head, so Ο strife, rig - or, Be - reav - ing you of And death with cru - el With your most sweet com - pas - sion, Un - worth - y though I me 0. death comes you The glow of The o'er life scorn! pow'r of de life; 0 ag o - ny and dy - ing! O love to sin - ners be: Be - neath your cross bid - ing For ev - er would I а an - gel hosts a - dore you, And trem - ble as they gaze. cays, Yet Je - sus, all grace sup - ply - ing, O turn your face on me. In your dear love con - fid - ing, And with your pres-ence blest. free! rest,

# LITANY of the LORD'S PASSION

All kneel. A silent pause follows each petition.

# *The response is,* **Lord, have mercy.**

LEADER: Lord of Love, you longed to eat the Passover with your disciples before you suffered: fill us with hunger for the Eucharist. R⁄

Lord of Love, you suffered betrayal from one who sat at table with you: show us the way of faithfulness. R

Suffering Savior, you prayed in anguish to the Father: hear the cries of the sorrowing. R

- Suffering Savior, your sweat fell to the ground as great drops of blood: plead to the Father for all who are persecuted. R
- Suffering Savior, you took upon yourself the weight of the world's sinfulness: protect those who are tempted to sin. R

Innocent Victim, seized and led away to be mocked and beaten: provide for victims of violence and hatred. R

- Innocent Victim, scourged and crowned with thorns: forgive our sins of pride and vanity. R
- Innocent Victim, treated as one without dignity: hold close to your heart the poor and weak, the elderly and the unborn. R
- Lamb of God, led away to be crucified with two criminals: preserve the innocence of children. R
- Jesus, you prayed, "Father forgive them, they do not know what they are doing." Pray for us, for we have sinned. R
- Jesus, giving us to your Mother, giving your mother to us: teach us true gratitude for so noble a gift. R
- Jesus, who promised the thief, "Today you will be with me in Paradise." Give the grace of repentance to all who are dying. R.
- Jesus, you cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Give our troubled world the gifts of trust and hope. R
- Jesus, taken down from the cross and put in the tomb: renew in your Church a profound faith in the mysteries of our redemption and your call to everlasting life. R

# **CLOSING PRAYER**

LEADER: Let us pray:

Father, look with love upon your people, the love which our Lord Jesus Christ showed us when he delivered himself to evil men and suffered the agony of the cross, the abandonment of death, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

LEADER: Let us praise the Lord.

# ALL: And give him thanks.

All depart in silence.



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