

We Prepare for Easter this Evening as We Bear Witness to The Last 7 Words of Christ

Prelude

Hymn "What Wondrous Love" Hymnal #215

Invocation

My God, my God, why . . . did he have to be forsaken?

My God, my God, why . . . did he have to die?

Tonight we will prayerfully ask these questions.

Tonight we will prayerfully listen for answers.

We will listen for the answers at the foot of the cross.

We will listen to the words Jesus speaks.

We will listen to these words of raw honesty.

We will listen to these words that gush forth in grace.

We will listen....

Service of Shadows

The First Word

Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.

Forgive them, Father dear; they know not what they do. Forgive all those who for my sake forgive as I forgive.

Luke 23:32-33

Psalm 22:16-18

Luke 23:34

Robin Fleming Judy Kercovich

Prayer

All: Before we hear of your death, and the world going into deep darkness, take away all the darkness from our lives, from our souls, from our consciences. Take away all that has offended you, and all that has hurt others. In your mercy, hear our prayer . . . (time of silent prayer is ended with singing)

Response

"Oh Sacred Head Now Wounded"

~ Hassler, Cruger

Bruce Smith, DeWayne Segafredo, Toni Schlemmer, vocal trio

The Second Word

Today you will be with me in paradise.

The day redemption dawns, the world begins anew.

This day you will enjoy with me the peace of paradise.

Luke 23:35-39

Psalm 22:6-8

Luke 23:39-43

Robin Fleming
Judy Kercovich

Robin Fleming

Prayer

Leader: 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 one of the criminal community who hung at your side. Remember us as those in need of your mercy and grace. In your mercy, hear our prayer... (time of silent prayer is ended with singing)

Response "Jesus Remember Me" Hymnal #227

The Third Word

Woman, here is your son. . . . Here is your mother.

The day redemption dawns, the world begins anew.

This day you will enjoy with me the peace of paradise.

John 19:25 Robin Fleming
Psalm 22:9-11 Judy Kercovich
John 19: 26-27 Robin Fleming

Prayer

All: 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, for all our brothers and sisters who live in fear or in hunger or in need. Grant us the compassion to love as you love. In your mercy, hear our prayer...

(time of silent prayer is ended with the Fourth Word)

The Fourth Word

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

I cry to you, O God, why have you left my side?

Yet you will be with me at last when victory will be mine.

Matthew 27:45
Psalm 22:1-2
Matthew 27:46
Robin Fleming
Judy Kercovich
Robin Fleming

Prayer

All: Holy God, you always hear our cries and listen to our sorrows. And so we pause to absorb this moment of utter agony when you closed your ears to your Son; this moment when he was forsaken, so that we might not be; this moment when he was abandoned when we deserved to be. We pause, and we pray...

(time of silent prayer is ended with singing)

Response"Jesus Paid It All"

~ Hall, Grape
Toni Schlemmer, vocal solo

The Fifth Word

I am thirsty.

I thirst with those who thirst for living streams of grace.

I long to lead my thirsting sheep to springs of endless life.

John 19:28 Robin Fleming
Psalm 22:14-15
John 19:29 Robin Fleming

Prayer

Leader: O blessed Savior, whose lips were dry and whose throat was parched, grant us the water of life. For all of us who hunger and thirst for righteousness, may we taste of your love and mercy now and evermore . . . (time of silent prayer is ended with singing)

Response "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" Hymnal #216

The Sixth Word

It is finished.

My task is now fulfilled; my Father's work is done.

The Son may now retire to rest within his Father's home.

John 19:30 Robin Fleming
Psalm 22:29 Judy Kerovich

Prayer

All: 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 follow you. In your mercy, hear our prayer . . .

(time of silent prayer is ended with musical meditation)

Musical Meditation

The Seventh Word

Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.

Cantor: Dear Father, I commend my spirit to your care.

With this last prayer at eventide I sleep in perfect peace.

Luke 23: 44-46 Robin Fleming

(moment of silence)

Response "When I Survey The Wondrous Cross" Hymnal #223

Parting Blessing

Depart in Silence

The service is not over. Instead, we wait for God to act, trusting that despite the darkness of this day, God's light will shine upon us soon. The service is concluded on Easter morning.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Saturday 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Easter Prayer Vigil – In-Person or Online

Sunday 8:30 a.m. Easter Worship Service – In-Person or Online

11:00 a.m. Easter Worship Service – In-Person or Online