

*Good Friday*  
**TENEBRÆ**

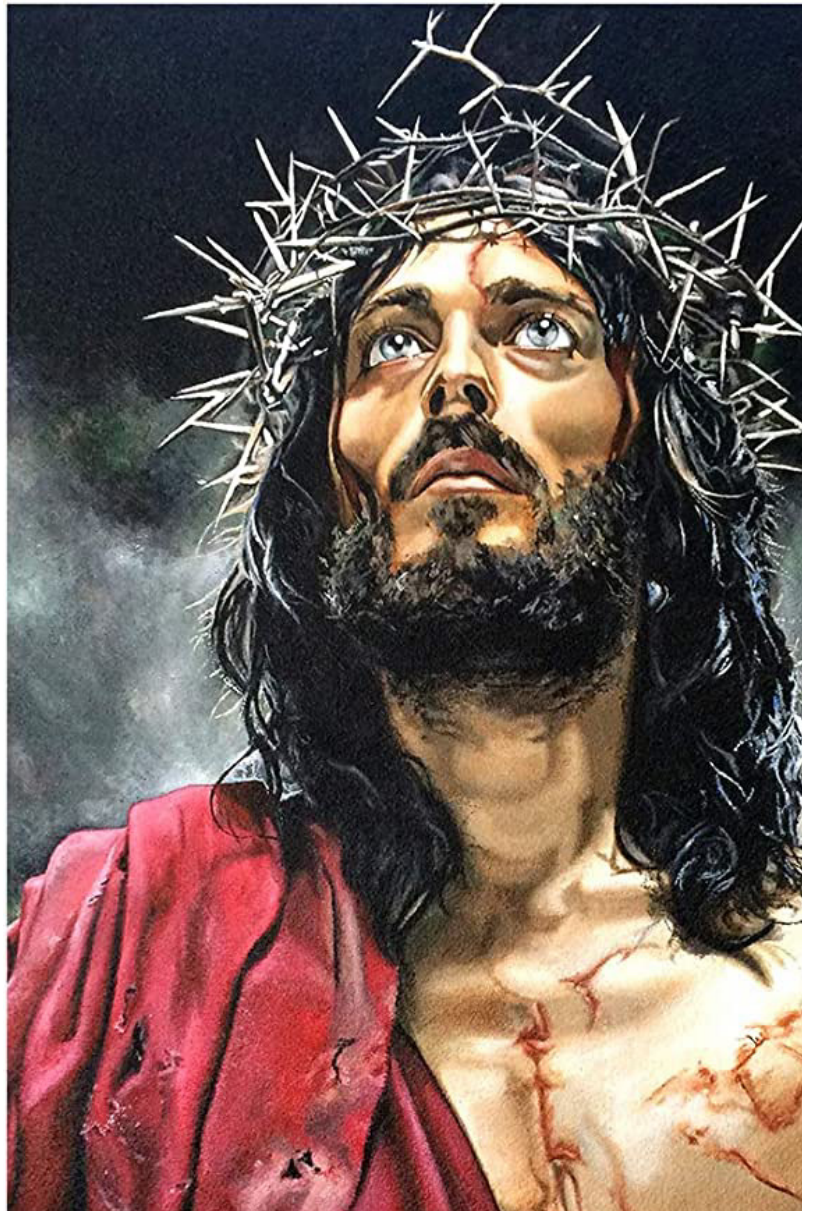


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# Historic Trinity

## Lutheran Church

April 7, 2023

### AS WE GATHER

Good Friday is a time of somber reflection as we approach the mystery of the cross. But the graveness of the Good Friday liturgy should not obscure the fact that this is a death we celebrate because of the forgiveness and life that flow from the cross for us and for our salvation. Because Good Friday is not an isolated event or day but part of God's planned revelation of His love, we listen to the entire story of God's work of salvation and deliverance. The message of the cross is the message of the Scriptures, planned by God, proclaimed by the prophets, and fulfilled in Christ. This liturgy continues what was begun on Maundy Thursday and will not be complete until Easter Sunday adds its own message of hope and triumph.

### ENTRANCE *in silence*

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: We gather before God remembering the cross. We come in sorrow. We come in shame. We come seeking His forgiveness, strength, and mercy...

**People: We remember the day of our Savior's death.**

Pastor: We mourn and struggle to understand the depth of Christ's love...

**People: that He should suffer and die in our place.**

Pastor: Father, our hearts are heavy as we gather in the name of Your Son, bearing witness to the terror of His crucifixion, knowing painfully well that we put Him there! We stand desperate, in need of Your forgiveness, Your life, and Your salvation.

**People: It was the Lord's will to crush Jesus. *Is 53:10***

Pastor: At times, we have failed to strive against evil in the world.

**People: It was the Lord's will to cause Jesus to suffer.**

Pastor: At times, we have denied our Lord.

**People: Jesus poured out His life unto death.**

Pastor: At times, we have betrayed our Lord.

**People: Jesus was numbered with the transgressors. For He bore the sins of many.**

Pastor: Have mercy on us Lord  
**People:** **and grant us forgiveness. Amen.**  
Pastor: Almighty God, graciously bestow Your favor upon this Your family, for whom our Lord Jesus was willing to be betrayed. Grant that we may genuinely cherish Jesus' willingness to be given into the hands of sinners,  
**People:** **to suffer torment upon a cross,**  
Pastor: and even to die,  
**People:** **that we may have abundant and eternal life,**  
Pastor: through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**People:** **Amen.**  
Pastor: Upon this your confession, by the precious blood of Jesus our Lord, I speak these words to you from God Himself: I forgive you. I remember your sins no more.  
**People:** **Amen.**

✠ **SERVICE OF DARKNESS – THE OFFICE OF TENEBRÆ** ✠

**JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH**

Narrator: It was early in the morning. Jesus stood before Pontius Pilate and listened as the crowds who once hailed Him as Messiah cried out, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate was astonished by their persistence and questioned, "Shall I crucify your king?" The crowd responded with a vehement cry, "We have no king but Caesar!" *(based on John 19)*

**VERSE**

LSB 439 v. 1

♪ **O dearest Jesus, what law hast Thou broken  
That such sharp sentence should on Thee be spoken?  
Of what great crime hast Thou to make confession,  
What dark transgression?**

**A POINT OF PRAYER**

Pastor: How courageously you faced the hour of your betrayal. How you gave, even when you were being taken away to die. To your father, you gave your obedience. To your disciples, you gave a plea for their escape. To your betrayer, you gave a kind word. To your enemy, you gave your healing. To your captures, you gave your own life. Give also to me, Lord, I beg. For I, like Peter, have defended you carelessly. Like Mark, I've hidden

in the bushes in the moment of truth. Like James, I ran. But if I looked in the recesses of my heart, buried in shame, I will find myself all too much like Judas, betraying you... even with a kiss.

## ***THE FIRST CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED***

### **JESUS IS MOCKED**

Narrator: Having been sentenced to death, Pilate ordered Jesus to be scourged and crucified. The soldiers now had charge of Jesus. Their allegiance to Caesar was strong and in their eyes this “would-be king” opposed everything they believed. They stripped Jesus of His clothes, put a scarlet robe on Him, fashioned a crown, placed it on his head, and put a reed in His hand. Bowing they acclaimed, “Hail, King of the Jews.” They spit on Him, beat, and mocked Him, leading Him out to be crucified.

### **VERSE**

LSB 439 v.2

♪ **They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;  
With cruel mockings to the cross they urge Thee;  
They give Thee gall to drink, they still decry Thee;  
They crucify Thee.**

### **OLD TESTAMENT**

Isaiah 52:13- 53:12

*(The prophet speaks of Jesus suffering for the world. He speaks of Jesus suffering for each of us.)*

<sup>13</sup>Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. <sup>14</sup>As many were astonished at you— his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind— <sup>15</sup>so shall he sprinkle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand.

<sup>1</sup> Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? <sup>2</sup>For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. <sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

<sup>4</sup> Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

### **VERSE**

LSB 451 v. 1

♪ **Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, See Him dying on the tree!  
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected; Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!  
'Tis the long-expected Prophet, David's Son, yet David's Lord;  
Proofs I see sufficient of it: 'Tis the true and faithful Word.**

<sup>5</sup> But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

<sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. <sup>7</sup>He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. <sup>8</sup>By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? <sup>9</sup>And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

<sup>10</sup>Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. <sup>11</sup>Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

## VERSE

LSB 451 v. 3

♪ **Ye who think of sin but lightly Nor suppose the evil great  
Here may view its nature rightly, Here its guilt may estimate.  
Mark the sacrifice appointed, See who bears the awful load;  
'Tis the Word, the Lord's anointed, Son of Man and Son of God.**

<sup>12</sup> Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

**Pastor:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Lord, have mercy.**

## A POINT OF PRAYER

**Pastor:** Touch my heart, O Heart that was once so wounded. Give me eyes to see royalty beneath the most incomprehensible of robes. Help me see what Pilate failed to see. That you are truth, the only truth that will ever matter. I am so sorry, Jesus, so very, very sorry for all you suffered at the hands of

those you loved so deeply. Forgive my fingerprints on those hands that hurt you, for something unspeakable in me was in them. And something of them is in me, even now...

**VERSE**

LSB 439 v. 4-5, 7

♪ **What punishment so strange is suffered yonder!**

**The Shepherd dies for sheep that loved to wander;**

**The Master pays the debt His servants owe Him, Who would not know Him.**

**The sinless Son of God must die in sadness;**

**The sinful child of man may live in gladness;**

**Man forfeited his life and is acquitted; God is committed.**

**O wondrous love, whose depth no heart hath sounded,**

**That brought Thee here, by foes and thieves surrounded!**

**All worldly pleasures, heedless, I was trying While Thou wert dying.**

***THE SECOND CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED***

**IESUS CARRIES HIS CROSS**

Narrator: Beaten, bloodied, and bruised, Jesus now carries His cross along the way of sorrows to the hill called Calvary. As Jesus carried the cross, struggling under its weight, He stumbled and fell. The soldiers forced Simon of Cyrene to carry the cross of Jesus to the place of execution.

**VERSE**

LSB 456 v.1

♪ **Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

**Oh—sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.**

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

**A POINT OF PRAYER**

Pastor: Lord, count me among the throng, those who waved branches or laid coats in that once great procession into Jerusalem. What a day that must have been, and how proud I would have been to see you. Hail! Hosanna!, we sing. But, Father in heaven, forgive me for falling so fast. We talk about Sunday's "Hosanna!" becoming Friday's "Crucify!", when I know- all too well- that five days gives me too much credit. My descent from songs of victory to sins of vulgarity comes more quickly than I would usually care to admit. Lord, count me among the mob, and please know how sorry I am that you would see me there...

## **SOLEMN REPROACHES** *(based on Micah 6 and Isaiah 5)*

**Pastor:** When the prophet Micah wrote, the people had forgotten the Lord. It was time for God to declare His case against them. When Christ was on the cross, it was again such a time.

**Cantor:** O my people, O my church, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me. I led you out of slavery into freedom, and delivered you through the waters of rebirth, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**People:**

Ho - ly God, ho - ly and might - y, ho - ly and im -  
mor - tal, have mer - cy on us.

**Cantor:** O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I poured out saving water from the rock, but you gave me vinegar to drink; I poured out my life and gave you the new covenant in my blood, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Ho - ly God, ho - ly and might - y, ho - ly and im -  
mor - tal, have mer - cy on us.

**Cantor:** O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I opened the waters to lead you to the promised land, but you opened my side with a spear; I washed your feet as a sign of my love, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Ho - ly God, ho - ly and might - y, ho - ly and im -  
mor - tal, have mer - cy on us.

Cantor: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I lifted you up to the heights, but you lifted me high on a cross; I raised you from death and prepared for you the tree of life, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.



Cantor: O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I came to you in the least of your brothers and sisters, but I was hungry and you gave me no food, thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

People (*quietly*)



### ***THE THIRD CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED***

#### **JESUS IS CRUCIFIED**

Narrator: Once at the hill called “the place of the Skull” the soldiers crucified Him. Soldiers hammered nails through flesh, bone, and wood---wounding the body of Christ. He bleeds, and cries out in agony, as He is tortured and hung on a cross between two condemned, guilty criminals. Behold the salvation of the world, a man rejected by men and abandoned by God, His Father. The crucified Christ was utterly alone in His anguish before mankind and before God.

#### **VERSE**

LSB 456 v.2

♪ **Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Oh—sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?**



## **EPISTLE**

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9a

*(Jesus knows our suffering and anguish over sin. He bore our very sin on the cross. He welcomes us to Himself with the promise of forgiveness.)*

<sup>14</sup> Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

<sup>7</sup> In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. <sup>8</sup> Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.

<sup>9</sup> And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all...

**Pastor:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Lord, have mercy.**

## **ANTHEM**

“Libera Me”

*Gabriel Faure*

*(Requiem)*

*Cathedral Choir; Todd Schurig, Baritone*

## **A POINT OF PRAYER**

**Pastor:** Here you are, Lord, nailed to a cross. Your heart is broken. The love you came to give was not received; the love you came to receive was not given. Your heart, that human heart overflowing with divine love, is broken. Rejected, despised, spat upon, laughed at, beaten and crowned with thorns, you hang on your cross. As I sit beneath the shadow of the cross, I can't help but see two things in each of my hands. Blood in one. A hammer in the other. Wash me, Lord Jesus. And by your grace, I dare to ask: Help me put this hammer down...

**People:** **Amen.**

## ***THE FOURTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED***

### **FIRST THREE HOURS OF THE CROSS**

**Narrator:** Nailed to the cross, suspended between heaven and earth, Jesus speaks! His first words were not for Himself, but for others. “Father, forgive them.” These are powerful words penetrating the hearts of those guilty of His death- the soldiers who drove the nails, and all people for whom Christ died. “Today you will be with Me in paradise” gave the assurance

of salvation, not only for the criminal on the cross, but for each of us for whom Christ prepares an eternal resting place. “Woman, behold your son; man, behold your mother” were words commending the care of His mother to another beloved disciple.

**HYMN**

“My Song is Love Unknown”

LSB 430 v. 1-3



1 My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to  
 2 He came from His blest throne Sal - va - tion to be -  
 3 Some - times they strew His way And His sweet prais - es



me, Love to the love - less shown That they might love - ly  
 stow; But men made strange, and none The longed - for Christ would  
 sing; Re - sound - ing all the day Ho - san - nas to their



be. Oh, who am I That for my sake  
 know. But, oh, my friend, My friend in - deed,  
 King. Then “Cru - ci - fy!” Is all their breath,



My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?  
 Who at my need His life did spend!  
 And for His death They thirst and cry.

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***THE FIFTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED***

**FINAL THREE HOURS ON THE CROSS**

Narrator:

As darkness covered the earth and men’s hearts grew fearful, Jesus endured the suffering for which He had come into this world. In agony He cried, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” With the judgment of all humanity upon Him, He speaks these painful words. As the time grew short, parched from the time of torment, Jesus said, “I thirst.” A jar of sour wine pathetically quenched His thirst, and then He cried out, “It is finished.” The judgment was now complete; forgiveness has been won. At the moment of His own death, Jesus declares “Father, into Your hands I commend my Spirit.” Bowing His head, He yielded His spirit and died.

## VERSE

LSB 450 v.1, 2

♪ **O sacred head, now wounded, With grief and shame weighed down,  
Now scornfully surrounded With thorns, thine only crown;  
O sacred head, what glory, What bliss till now was thine!  
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.**

**How art thou pale with anguish, With sore abuse and scorn;  
How does this visage languish Which once was bright as morn!  
Thy grief and bitter Passion Where all for sinners' gain;  
Mine, mine was the transgression, But thine the deadly pain.**

### ***THE SIXTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED***

## GOSPEL

John 19:17-30

*(Jesus' death on that horrible day is called "good" because of His sacrifice and great love for each of us.)*

<sup>17</sup> And he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. <sup>18</sup> There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. <sup>19</sup> Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." <sup>20</sup> Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. <sup>21</sup> So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" <sup>22</sup> Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

<sup>23</sup> When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, <sup>24</sup> so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, "They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots."

So the soldiers did these things, <sup>25</sup> but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" <sup>27</sup> Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

<sup>28</sup> After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said ( to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." <sup>29</sup> A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. <sup>30</sup> When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

**VERSE**

tune: LSB 621

♪ **Thus, with thirty years accomplished, He went forth from Nazareth,  
Destined, dedicated, willing, Did His work, and met His death;  
Like a lamb He humbly yielded On the cross His dying breath.**

**PRAYER**

Pastor: Dear Man of Sorrows, Who, with the weight of Your body pulling against those nails and the weight of the world's sin pulling against Your soul,

**People: You thought more of the sorrows of others than Your own.**

Pastor: You, Lord, Who was stripped of everything,

**People: yet still found so much to give;**

Pastor: To Your executioners,

**People: forgiveness;**

Pastor: To a thief,

**People: Paradise;**

Pastor: To Your mother,

**People: a son.**

Pastor: Even the tortures of a cruel Roman cross couldn't distract You from giving and forgiving. In spite of You suffering,

**People: still You cared, still You gave, still You put the needs of others before Your own.**

Pastor: Grant us the grace, O Jesus, to see at the cross such a picture of love that I would never forget

**People: the depth of your love.**

Pastor: Help us never to forget, Lord, that this is where we need to be—near the cross—beholding our Savior. For this is the fountain where love is most pure. This is where we are cleansed, not only from our sin but from our shallowness. This is where we are closest to You.

**People: Bring me here daily, Jesus.**

Pastor: For this is where love is. And this is where we need to be...

***THE SEVENTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED***

**IESUS IS BURIED**

John 19:38-42

<sup>38</sup>Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. <sup>39</sup>He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. <sup>40</sup>Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs.

## VERSE

LBW 92 v.3

♪ **Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Oh—sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?**

<sup>41</sup>At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. <sup>42</sup>Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

## ANTHEM

“It is Finished (Seven Last Words)” *Theodore Dubois*  
*The Cathedral Choir. Jillian Eichstaedt, Soprano; Davy Webb, Tenor; Todd Schurig, Baritone*

## THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IS REMOVED

*During the darkness, the congregation is invited to meditate silently  
on Christ's suffering and death.*

## STREPITUS

*(A loud noise symbolizing the closing of Christ's tomb.)*

## LORD'S PRAYER

*(Spoken softly by all.)*

**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.**

## THE CANDLE IS RETURNED

### COLLECT FOR GOOD FRIDAY – ADORATION OF THE CROSS

**Pastor:** We adore You, dearest Jesus, and we stand in awe of Your holy passion.

**People:** **By Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.**

**Pastor:** We adore You, dearest Jesus, and we stand in awe of Your love.

**People:** **By Your holy cross You have redeemed *me*.**

*A single bell will ring 33 times - once for each year of Jesus' life.*

## PARTING

*The omission of the benediction today indicates that our worship is not complete  
until joined with the celebration of Easter.*