

Good Friday

TENEBRÆ

April 18, 2025

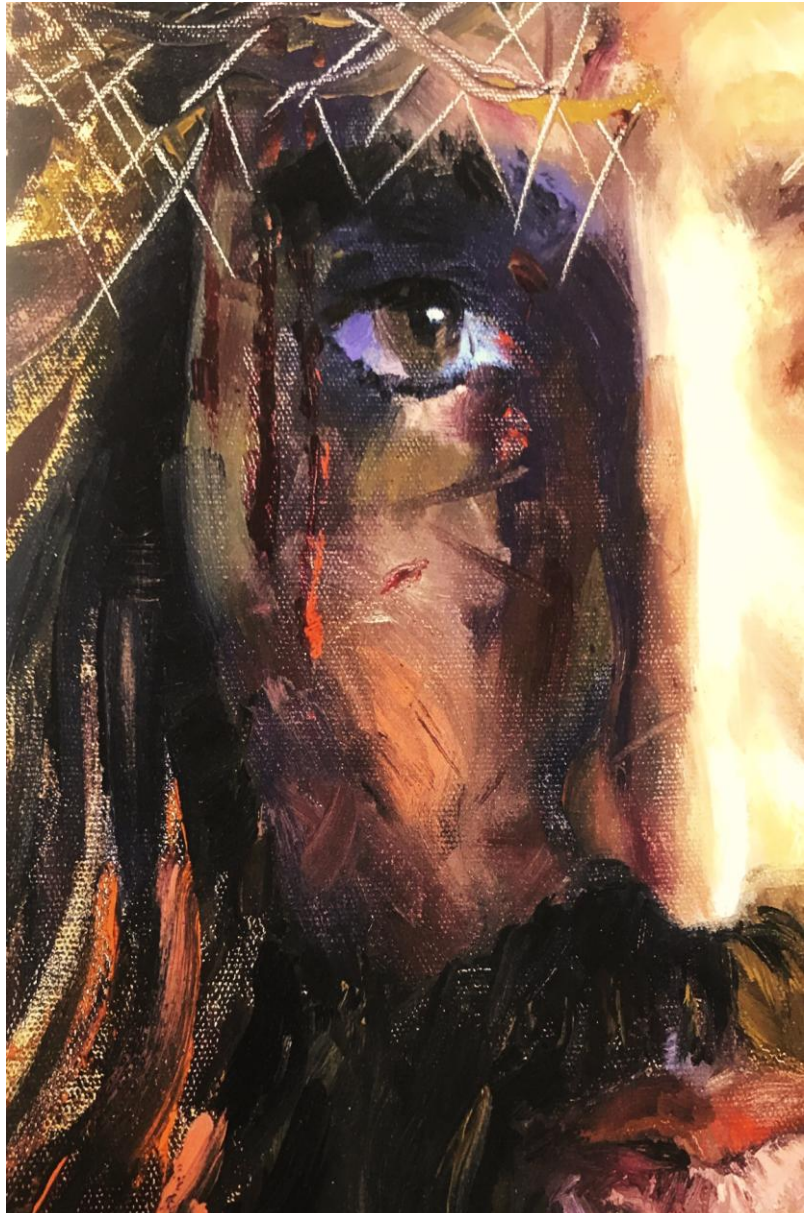


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April 18, 2025

AS WE GATHER

Today, we observe the second great act of the “holy Triduum,” the death of our Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary’s cross. While the name of the day may come from the phrase “God’s Friday,” it is, despite its horror, a good Friday. Virtually since the very beginning of time, man’s sin has infected the whole world. Sin separates us from God and one another, sin turns us inward, sin brings upon us the penalty of death. Today, we remember the day that would change the world forever, the moment when—by the Father’s deep love—nothing would ever be the same again. Jesus’ death would reverse the curse of Eden, bringing Paradise back to sinners.



T E N E B R A E

We gather in silence to reflect upon our Lord's Passion.

PROCESSION *in silence*

CALL TO WORSHIP

LSB 440 v. 1

♪ Jesus, I will ponder now On Your holy passion;
With Your Spirit me endow For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith May the image cherish
Of Your suffering, pain, and death That I may not perish.

Pastor: Sisters and brothers in Christ, on this most holy and solemn day, the Friday we call good, we are confronted with the serious nature of our sin, which made this day necessary. It is right and proper for us to reflect on and confess our sinfulness. Let us join the woman caught in adultery, the tax collector in the temple, and King David, and say “God, be merciful to me, a sinner.”

(A time of silence is observed to call to mind the specifics of our sin and prepare for confession.)

A MOMENT OF CONFESSION

from Isaiah 53

Pastor: Heavenly Father, this day we look upon a hill that held a cross that held
Your One and Only Son.

People: He was despised and rejected by me...

Pastor: and as one from whom I hid my face

People: I despised Him, and esteemed him not.

Pastor: Surely he has borne my grief and carried my sorrow;

People: yet I esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

Pastor: But he was wounded for my transgressions;

People: he was crushed for my iniquities;

Pastor: upon him was the punishment that brought me peace,

People: and with his stripes I am healed.

Pastor: All we like sheep have gone astray; I have turned to my own way;

People: and the LORD has laid on him my iniquity.

Pastor: Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him... because of me.

People: he has put him to grief... because of me.

Pastor: He poured out his soul to death... because of me.

People: He bore my sin, and makes intercession... for me.

CALL TO CONFESSION

LSB 440 v. 5

♪ **If my sins give me alarm And my conscience grieve me,
Let Your cross my fear disarm; Peace of conscience give me.
Help me see forgiveness won By Your holy passion.
If for me He slays His Son, God must have compassion!**

Pastor: God is merciful. Even before we were aware of the burden of our sin, God planned our salvation. He sent His only begotten Son into this world of sin and made Him to be sin for us. It was my sin that He bore to Calvary's cross. It was the penalty for your sin that He endured. And it was because of His sacrifice that we are forgiven. As you called and ordained pastor, and at the command and promise of our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor: O Lord, holy Father, show us what kind of man it is who is hanging for our sakes on the cross, whose suffering causes the rocks themselves to crack and crumble with compassion, whose death brings the dead back to life. Let my heart crack and crumble at the sight of him. Let my soul break apart with compassion for his suffering. Let it be shattered with grief at my sins for which he dies. And finally let it be softened with devoted love for him. ~St. Bonaventura (1217-1274)

People: **To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.**

VERSE

LSB 440 v. 6

♪ **Graciously my faith renew; Help me bear my crosses,
Learning humbleness from You, Peace mid pain and losses.
May I give You love for love! Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in heav'n above Sing Your praise forever.**

EPISTLE

Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9

(Jesus the great high priest)

¹⁴Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For 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. ¹⁶Let 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...

⁷In 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. ⁸Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. ⁹And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

"Pie Jesu (Requiem)"

Andrew Lloyd Webber

Cathedral Choir; Alana Meeker and Jillian Eichstaedt, Sopranos

HEART TO HEART

Pastor: Your heart is broken, the perfect heart that did not know hatred, revenge, resentment, or envy but only love, love so deep and so wide that it embraces your Father in heaven as well as all humanity in time and space. Your broken heart is the source of our salvation, the foundation of our hope, and the cause of our love. It is the most sacred place where all that was, is and ever shall be is held together. There all suffering has been suffered, all anguish lived, all loneliness endured, all abandonment felt and all agony cried out. All the tears of the human race have been cried there, all pain understood and all despair touched. Together with all people of all times, we look up to you whom they have pierced, and we come to see the depth of the love of our Father who gave You up for us all.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN

LSB 453 v. 1

♪ **Upon the cross extended See, world, your Lord suspended.
Your Savior yields His breath.
The Prince of Life from heaven Himself has freely given
To shame and blows and bitter death.**

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

THE PROPHECIES FULFILLED *The Betrayal*

Prophecy: “Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.” (*Psalms 41:9*)

Fulfillment: **Jesus answered, “He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me.”** (*Matthew 26:23*)

Prophecy: Then I said to them, “If it seems good to you, give me my wages; but if not, keep them.” And they weighed out as my wages thirty pieces of silver. (*Zechariah 11:12*)

Fulfillment: **Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, “What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?” And they paid him thirty pieces of silver.** (*Matthew 26:14-15*)

THE FIRST WORD

Luke 23:32-38

Pastor: Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with Him. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on His right and one on His left. And

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide His garments. And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at Him, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself, if He is the Christ 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."

HEART TO HEART

Pastor: Father, we are brought to tears as we stand at the foot of the cross.

People: It is difficult to comprehend how much Your love did for us.

Pastor: Lord Jesus, we stand in awe of Your forgiving those who nailed You to the cross.

People: Help us to learn to forgive those who hurt us in the same way.

Pastor: Open our eyes,

People: that we may see Your love more clearly in the death of Your Son.

HYMN

LSB 451 v. 2

♪ Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning, Was there ever grief like His?
Friends through fear His cause disowning, Foes insulting His distress;
Many hands were raised to wound Him, None would intervene to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him Was the stroke that justice gave.

THE FIRST CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

THE PROPHECIES FULFILLED *The Betrayal Continues*

Prophecy: Then the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter"— the lordly price at which I was priced by them. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD, to the potter. (*Zechariah 11:13*)

Fulfillment: And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple... they took counsel and bought with them the potter's field as a burial place for strangers. (Matthew 27:5-7)

Prophecy: "Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who stands next to me," declares the LORD of hosts. "Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered." (*Zechariah 13:7*)

Fulfillment: And they all left him and fled. (Mark 14:50)

THE SECOND WORD

Luke 23:39-43

Pastor: One of the criminals who were hanged railed at Him, saying, "Are You not the Christ? 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 justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." And He said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

HEART TO HEART

Pastor: Lord Jesus, open our eyes,
People: **that we, too, may glimpse the goodness of this day, even in the midst of uncertainty and sadness.**
Pastor: Guide and direct us
People: **into Your paradise which awaits us, and reveal Your perfect peace to us.**
Pastor: Heavenly Father, grant us
People: **a richer awareness of the hope that You provide in Your Son Jesus.**
Pastor: Help us to cling every day to the life You have given to us,
People: **and by Your Holy Spirit, help us to glorify You in all that we do.**

HYMN

LSB 449 v. 1

♪ **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.**

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THE SECOND CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

THE PROPHECIES FULFILLED *The Trial*

Prophecy: "Ruthless witnesses come forward; they question me on things I know nothing about." (*Psalm 35:11*)
Fulfillment: **Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. (*Matthew 26:59*)**

Prophecy: "He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth." (*Isaiah 53:7*)

Fulfillment: **But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge.** (*Matthew 27:12-14*)

THE THIRD WORD

John 19:25-27

Pastor: Standing by 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 nearby, 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 to his own home.

HEART TO HEART

Pastor: Lord God, may we learn from our Lord's example to love others as You have loved us;

People: while seeing the worst we find in others and in ourselves, yet rejoicing in the forgiveness and acceptance we have received from You and share with others.

Pastor: Encourage us to strive by the power of the Holy Spirit

People: toward greater unity in our own families and toward unity in the family of believers in Christ Jesus.

HYMN

LSB 453 v. 2

♪ Come, see these things and ponder, Your soul will fill with wonder
As blood streams from each pore.

Through grief beyond all knowing From His great heart came flowing
Sighs welling from its deepest core.

THE THIRD CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

THE PROPHECIES FULFILLED *The Mocking*

Prophecy: "I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting." (*Isaiah 50:6*)

Fulfillment: Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, saying, "Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?"
(*Matthew 26:67-68*)

Prophecy: "All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads; 'He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!'" (*Psalms 22:7-8*)

Fulfillment: **And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him... (saying) "He trusts in God. Let God rescue him."** (*Matthew 27:31,43*)

THE FOURTH WORD

Matthew 27:45-46

Pastor: Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

ANTHEM

"Surely He Hath Borne Our Griefs"
(*Messiah*)

G. F. Handel
The Cathedral Choir

HEART TO HEART

Pastor: Lord, we would never forsake You,

People: but in our busyness, we sometimes forget You.

Pastor: Lord, we would never condemn You, shouting "crucify!"

People: although we have allowed evil to be done in Your name.

Pastor: Lord, we would never deny You, saying, "I do not know the man!"

People: but we have avoided opportunities to witness to Your love and to share the good news of salvation in Your name.

Pastor: Lord, we would never shut You out of our lives,

People: yet we confess that our own selfishness hides Your presence and love from us. Forgive us, O Lord.

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:



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.

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 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.


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 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.

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 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 FOURTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

THE PROPHECIES FULFILLED *The Crucifixion*

Prophecy: “For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet.” (*Psalm 22:16*)

Fulfillment: **And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him.** (*Luke 23:33*)

Prophecy: “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.” (*Isaiah 53:12*)

Fulfillment: **Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.** (*Matthew 27:38*)

THE FIFTH WORD

John 19:28-29

Pastor: After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” 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.

HEART TO HEART

Pastor: Lord Jesus, sometimes we forget that the pain and anguish You suffered was human pain and anguish.

People: **We often feel sorry for ourselves, without realizing what You suffered on our behalf.**

Pastor: Having given Your life on our behalf,

People: **help us to be bold in proclaiming Your name, despite the cost to us.**

Pastor: By Your suffering and death on our behalf,

People: **grant us the gift of life, life that is lived for Your glory.**

HYMN

LSB 449 v. 3

♪ **What language shall I borrow To thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever! And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never, Outlive my love for Thee.**

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THE FIFTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

THE PROPHECIES FULFILLED *The Crucifixion Continues*

Prophecy: "My friends and companions stand aloof from my plague, and my nearest kin stand far off." (*Psalm 38:11*)

Fulfillment: And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things. (*Luke 23:49*)

Prophecy: "They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots." (*Psalm 22:18*)

Fulfillment: 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, so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." (*John 19:23-24*)

THE SIXTH WORD

Luke 23:44-46

Pastor: It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit!" And having said this He breathed His last.

HEART TO HEART

Pastor: Open our eyes, Lord;

People: the shadow of Your Son's cross encompasses all our world.

Pastor: Teach our hearts, Lord,

People: that when our last hour comes, we may confidently commit ourselves into Your loving arms.

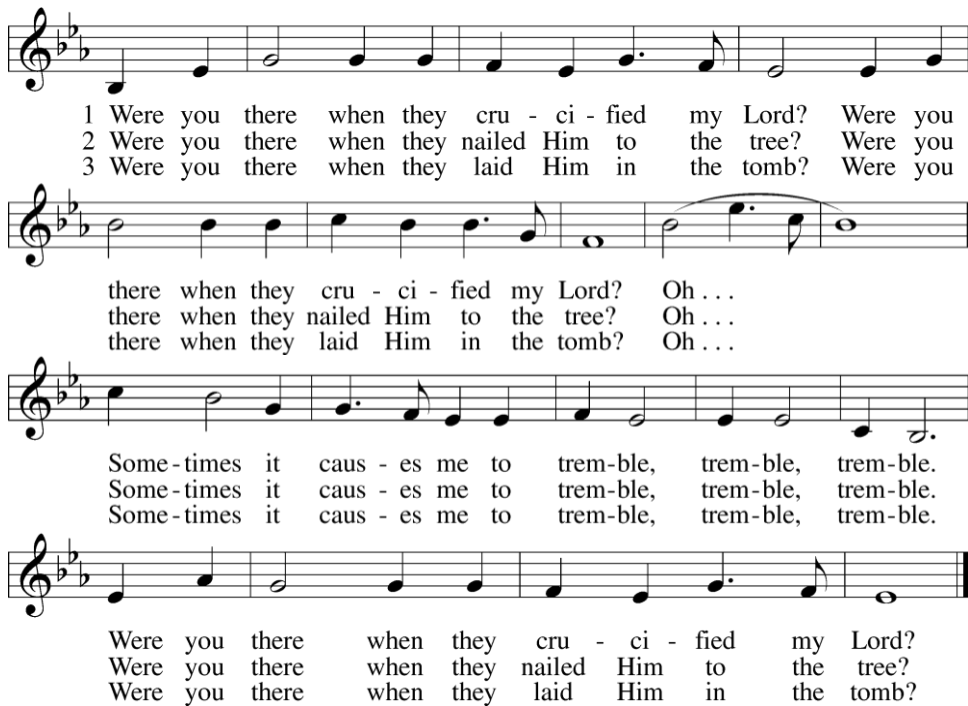
Pastor: Lead us, Lord,

People: that we may follow You through the valley of the shadow of death into the place prepared for us at Your throne in Paradise.

HYMN

"Were You There?"

LSB 456 v.1-3



1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you
 2 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Were you
 3 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? Were you

there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Oh . . .
 there when they nailed Him to the tree? Oh . . .
 there when they laid Him in the tomb? Oh . . .

Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.
 Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.
 Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

THE SIXTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

THE PROPHECIES FULFILLED *The Death*

Prophecy: "He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken." (*Psalms 24:20*)

Fulfillment: But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. (*John 19:33*)

Prophecy: "And on that day," declares the Lord GOD, "I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight." (*Amos 8:9*)

Fulfillment: Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. (*Matthew 27:45*)

Prophecy: "And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death." (*Isaiah 53:9*)

Fulfillment: When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. (*Mt 27:57-60*)

THE SEVENTH WORD

John 19:30

Pastor: When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished," and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit. *(Silence...)*

HEART TO HEART

Pastor: Lord Jesus, in Your death we have life.

People: We give You thanks that You finished the course set by the Father, that leads to our salvation.

Pastor: By Your holy death,

People: strengthen us to remain faithful unto death, that we may receive the crown of life You have earned for us.

Pastor: Lead and guide us, O Lord, beyond the darkness of sin into the light of Your grace,

People: that we need not wander in the darkness forever, but may see Your glorious light.

HYMN

LSB 436 v. 3

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

THE SEVENTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

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

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IS REMOVED

CHORAL RESPONSE

"God So Loved the Lord"
(Crucifixion)

*John Stainer
The Cathedral Choir*

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

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...

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

PARTING

*You are asked to leave in silence anticipating the joys of Easter
while contemplating the solemnity of Good Friday.*

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

***The story is not yet over. Share in the good news at the Celebration of the
Festival of the Resurrection at 7:30am, 9:00am, or 11:00am on Easter Sunday.***