

The Fifth Word

Matthew 27: 45 – 47

“Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” (“My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?”)

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, **“Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?”** 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.”

Hymn #289 *“Ah, Holy Jesus*

Meditation and Silent Prayer

The Sixth Word

John 19: 30

“It is finished.”

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

Hymn #288 *“Were You There”*

Meditation and Silent Prayer

The Seventh Word

Luke 23: 44 – 46

“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”

It was now 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.”** Having said this, he breathed his last.

Meditation and Silent Prayer

Choral Response *“Christ We do All Adore Thee”*

from *“The Seven Last Words of Christ”* by Theodore Dubois

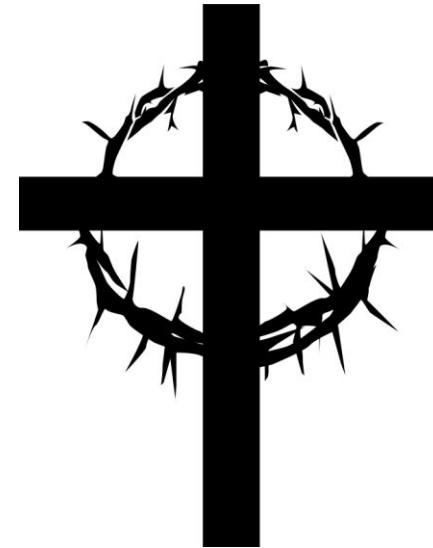
Christ, we do all adore thee, and we praise thee forever, for on the holy cross hast thou the world from sin redeemed.

Christ, we do all adore thee!

Please depart in silence

Good Friday Service

“The Seven Last Words of Christ”



First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo

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Welcome and Lenten Candle Liturgy

Meditation: Never doubt the meaning of Lent. It happened a long time ago, but it happened. Jesus walked on this earth. He practiced a ministry of radical inclusivity, drawing to himself all the despised and rejected members of society. He lived what he taught: a life of justice and love, of profound compassion for all people. He lived a life acceptable to you, O God. His death terrifies us, because it reveals how committed the world is to its own way, and the price the world exacts from those whose commitment is to you. *(Silent time)*

As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of all the children in the world who suffer in body, in mind or in spirit. *(A candle is extinguished)*

Let us pray: **(All) What we contemplate this night is beyond words, beyond understanding. May the Holy Spirit intercede for us and give voice to what, for us, is inexpressible. Amen.**

The First Word

Luke 23: 32 – 38

“Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”

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. 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”

Hymn #285 *(red hymnal)* *“To Mock Your Reign, O Dearest Lord”*

Meditation and Silent Prayer

The Second Word

Luke 23: 39 – 43

“Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

Some 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.”**

Anthem *“All For Love”* (Robert H. Young)

Jesu, Born to die upon the tree; Jesu, Born to set us free. Blessed be that Maid Marie; Born He was of her body; Very God ere time began, Born in time the Son of Man. He at Bethlehem was born, Salem gave Him crown of thorn, Life of want and death of scorn. All for love, all for love, love of man forlorn.

Meditation and Silent Prayer

The Third Word

John 19: 16b – 27

“Woman, here is your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.”

So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews, but, This man said, I am King of the Jews.’” Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.” 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 who 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.

Solo *“At the Foot of the Cross”* (Carol E. Peterson)

Meditation and Silent Prayer

The Fourth Word

John 19: 28 – 29

“I am thirsty.”

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.

Hymn #286 *“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”*

Meditation and Silent Prayer