

TENEBRAE SERVICE OF THE SEVEN LAST WORDS

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 30, 2018

GOOD FRIDAY

NO GREATER LOVE...



PRELUDE

In Paradisum

Gabriel Fauré

*CALL TO WORSHIP

So they took Jesus, forcing him, while he could to carry it, to bear the portion of the cross to which his arms would be held by force. They went to the place of a skull, called in Hebrew, Golgotha, where the long poles rose from the top of the hill. We come in terror and revulsion, but this is not a day for mourning but for reverence, wonder, and gratitude.

***All you who bow in reverence, praise Him.
All you children of faith, glorify him,
not for his suffering, but for his love they cannot kill.
All you children of hope, stand in awe before him,
not for his strength, but for his unfailing grace.***

WORDS OF WELCOME AND EXPLANATION

FIRST WORD Luke 23:33-34

When they came to the place called "The Skull," they nailed Jesus to the cross there, and the two criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

MEDITATION ON THE FIRST WORD

Lord, Jesus, you gave your life for us.

In sacrificial love, you suffered and died that we might be made whole.

HYMN

Ah, Holy Jesus

Purple, No. 218, verse 1

SECOND WORD Luke 23:39-43

One of the criminals who were hanged there threw insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other one rebuked him, saying, "Don't you fear God? Here we are under the same sentence of condemnation. But we have been condemned justly, and are getting what we deserve for what we did; but he has done nothing wrong." Then this one said to Jesus, "Remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus replied, "I tell you this, today you will be in Paradise with me."

MEDITATION ON THE SECOND WORD

Lord, Jesus, you gave your life for us.

In sacrificial love, you suffered and died that we might be made whole.

ANTHEM

Ubi Caritas

Ola Gjeilo

*Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Exultemus, et in ipso iucundemur.
Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.*

*Where charity and love are, God is there.
Christ's love has gathered us into one.
Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.
And may we love each other
with a sincere heart.*

THIRD WORD John 19:25-27

Standing close to Jesus' cross were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple 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 time the disciple took her to live in his home.

MEDITATION ON THE THIRD WORD

Lord, Jesus, you gave your life for us.

In sacrificial love, you suffered and died that we might be made whole.

HYMN

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Purple, No. 223, verse 1

FOURTH WORD

Mark 15:33-34/Matthew 27:45-46

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon when Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

MEDITATION ON THE FOURTH WORD

Lord, Jesus, you gave your life for us.

In sacrificial love, you suffered and died that we might be made whole.

HYMN

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Purple, No. 223, verse 2

FIFTH WORD

John 19: 28

After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the scripture), "I thirst."

MEDITATION ON THE FIFTH WORD

Lord, Jesus, you gave your life for us.

In sacrificial love, you suffered and died that we might be made whole.

ANTHEM

It Is Not Death to Die

Malan, Bethune & Kauflin

SIXTH WORD

John 19:29-30

A bowl was there, full of cheap wine mixed with vinegar. So a sponge was soaked in it, put on a stalk of hyssop and lifted up to his lips. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished."

MEDITATION ON THE SIXTH WORD

Lord, Jesus, you gave your life for us.

In sacrificial love, you suffered and died that we might be made whole.

HYMN

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Purple, No. 223, verse 3

SEVENTH WORD

Luke 23:46

Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."...

MEDITATION ON THE SEVENTH WORD

Lord, Jesus, you gave your life for us.

In sacrificial love, you suffered and died that we might be made whole.

...Having said this, he breathed his last.

The congregation will leave in silence.

Worship Leadership This Evening

Reflections:

Alex DeMarco, Director of Youth Ministries

Rev. Jessica C. Gregory, Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Hopp-Peters

Rev. Michael D. Kirby, Senior Pastor

Rev. Autum Lum

Musicians:

Dr. Christopher Owen, Paul Vander Weele,

The Northminster Chancel Choir

Soloists: Johanna Moffitt, soprano; Jackie King, alto;

Steve Uliana, tenor; Doug Balkin, bass

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