

THE SEVEN LAST WORDS FROM THE CROSS

WORDS OF WELCOME

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

We gather here to worship God.

We are here to remember the story of how Jesus suffered and died for us and to thank God for his love and his mercy.

SCRIPTURAL INTRODUCTION

Isaiah 53:1-3

Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? He grew up before God like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

HYMN

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

ELW #335

**1 Jesus, keep me near the cross,
there's a precious fountain;
free to all, a healing stream
flows from Calv'ry's mountain.**

**In the cross, in the cross
be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find
rest beyond the river.**

**2 Near the cross, a trembling soul,
love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star
sheds its beams around me.**

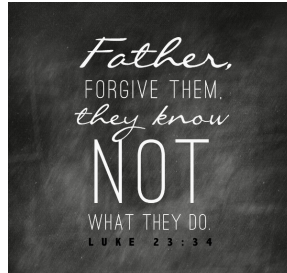
**In the cross, in the cross
be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find
rest beyond the river.**

**3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day
with its shadow o'er me.**

**In the cross, in the cross
be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find
rest beyond the river.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Merciful God - as we remember how your son Jesus bore our sins in his body on the cross, we ask you to help us to understand the mystery of your love and make us into a people who are ever more worthy of it. **Amen.**



THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF JESUS

THE 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 "Forgive them, Father! They do not know what they are doing."

HYMN

Ah Holy Jesus (v. 1)

ELW #349

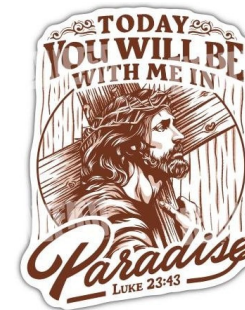
**Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended
that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,
O most afflicted.**

Silent Meditation.

THE SECOND WORD

Luke 23:39-43

One of the criminals hanging there threw insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" The other one, however, rebuked him, saying: "Don't you fear God? Here we are all under the same sentence. Ours, however, is only right, for we are getting what we deserve for what we did; but he has done no wrong." And he said to Jesus, "Remember me, Jesus, when you come as King!" Jesus said to him, "I tell you this: Today you will be in Paradise with me."



HYMN

Alas! And Did My Savior Blood Verse 1

ELW #337

**Alas! And did my Savior bleed,
and did my sov'reign die?
Would he devote that sacred head
for sinners such as I?**

Silent Meditation.

THE THIRD WORD

John 19:25-27

Standing close to Jesus' cross were his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there; so 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.

"WOMAN, HERE IS YOUR SON."
"HERE IS YOUR MOTHER."



HYMN

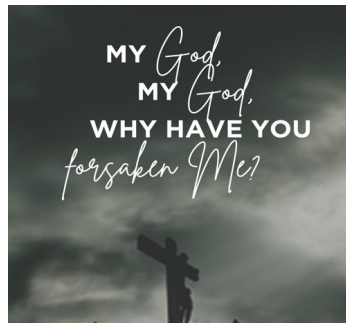
Abide with Me

Verse 1

ELW #629

**Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.**

Silent Meditation



THE FOURTH WORD

Mark 15:33-34

And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice,

"Elo-i, elo-i, lama sabach-thani?" which means,
"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

HYMN

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Verse 1

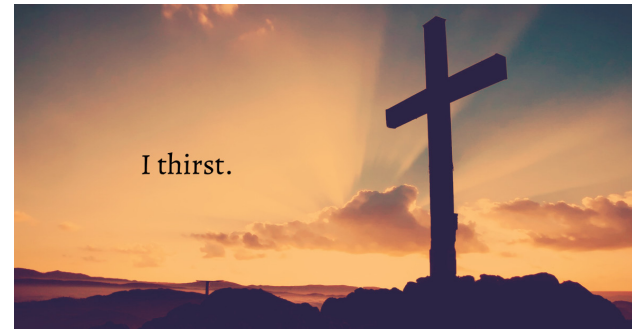
ELW #338

**Beneath the cross of Jesus
I long to take my stand;
the shadow of a mighty rock
within a weary land,
a home within a wilderness,
a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat
and burdens of the day.**

Silent Meditation

THE FIFTH WORD John 19:28

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



HYMN When I Survey the Wondrous Cross Verse 1 ELW #803

**When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss
and pour contempt on all my pride.**

Silent Meditation

THE 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 stalk of hyssop and lifted up to his lips. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished";

HYMN O Sacred Head Now Wounded Verse 1 ELW #351

**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.**

Silent Meditation

THE SEVENTH WORD Luke 23:46

Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said,
"Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit!"
And having said this he breathed his last.



HOMILY

HYMN

Christ, the Life of All the Living (v. 1-3) ELW #339

**1 Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Christ, yourself for me once giving
to the darkest depths of woe:
through your suff'ring, death, and merit
life eternal I inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due,
dearest Jesus, unto you.**

**2 You have suffered great affliction
and have borne it patiently,
even death by crucifixion,
fully to atone for me;
for you chose to be tormented
that my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due,
dearest Jesus, unto you.**

**3 Then, for all that bought my pardon,
for the sorrows deep and sore,
for the anguish in the garden,
I will thank you evermore;
thank you for the groaning, sighing,
for the bleeding and the dying,
for that last triumphant cry,
praise you evermore on high.**

RESPONSIVE READING Isaiah 53:4-6, 9

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows,
yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions and he was bruised for our iniquities.

Upon him was the chastisement that made us whole.

All we like sheep have gone astray; each of us has turned to our own way;
and the Lord has laid upon him the iniquity of us all.

He was assigned a grave with the wicked and with the rich in his death,
although he had done no violence nor was any deceit in his mouth.

SHARING GOD'S GIFTS - OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN **Create in Me a Clean Heart** *ELW #185*

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

OFFERTORY **Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow** *ELW #884*

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above, you heavenly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost**

PRAYER

Lord God, you have given us everything.

You have not held anything back.

**Help us in like manner, and in the name of your son Jesus, to give
of ourselves.**

Loving God, sanctify us and all our offerings in Christ's name.

Bless us and all that we think, feel, say, and do that we, like Jesus, may prove to be a blessing unto others,

We ask this and all things that we ask of you through him, saying the prayer that he taught us...

LORD'S PRAYER

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

HYMN

Were You There

Verses 1-3

ELW #353

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?

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?

3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

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

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

BENEDICTION

Depart now in peace - and may the Spirit of Christ, go with you, may his faith and trust abide within you, and may the knowledge of his love support you both now and forevermore, **Amen.**

