

MARCH 29, 2024

7:00PM

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE



ST. MARTIN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

606 W 15TH STREET, AUSTIN, TEXAS

WWW.SAINTMARTINS.ORG

The word *Tenebrae* is Latin for "shadows" or "darkness." It can also be translated as "night" or "death." The *Tenebrae* service is an ancient tradition in Christian history. The most distinctive aspect of the service is the use of a *Tenebrae* "hearse," a holder for seven lit candles. The flames of these candles are extinguished one by one as Scripture, followed by spoken and musical reflections, leads us through the last moments of Jesus' life. Finally, the Christ candle is removed from the sanctuary as a symbol of Jesus' death. The service closes as the Christ candle is returned to the sanctuary reminding us that God gives us hope even at the darkest moments.

Notes in italics offer directions about the service. The people's responses are in bold.

PRELUDE

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME

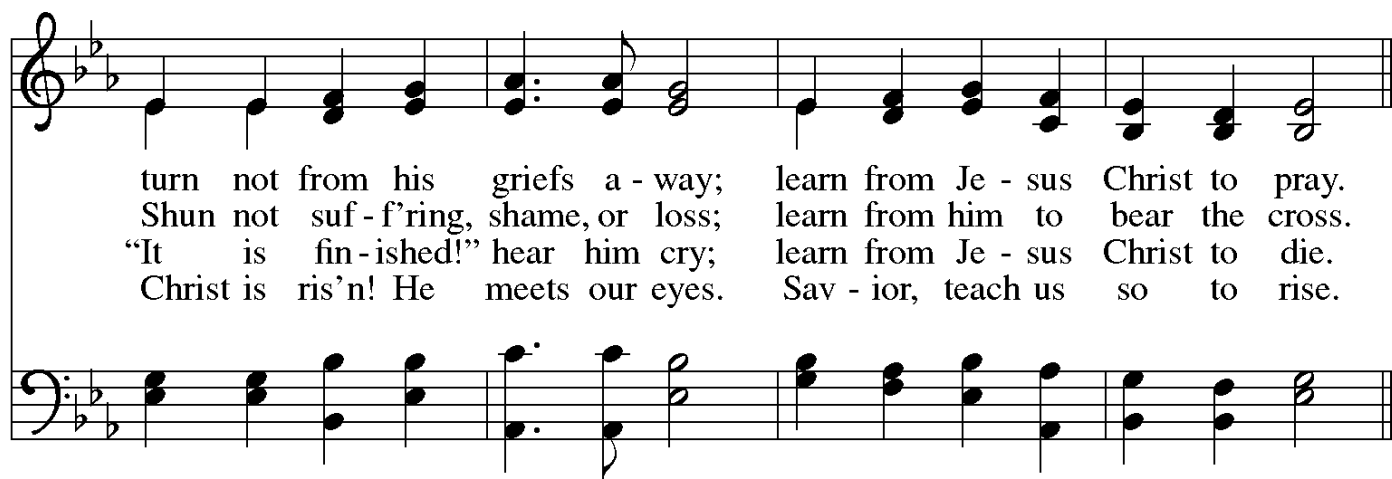
The people stand as they are able.

GO TO DARK GETHSEMANE

GETHSEMANE

1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;
 2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - rained;
 3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,
 4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath - less clay;

your Re - deem - er's con - flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;
 oh, the worm - wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus - tained!
 mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete.
 all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?



turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
 Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
 "It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
 Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself. Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

The people are seated.

THE FIRST WORD

³²Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him.

³³When 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. ³⁴Then Jesus said, "**Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.**" And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

Luke 23:26-28, 32-34

A READING FROM DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

If you've ever really forgiven somebody, forgiven some real wrong, all forgiveness is suffering. If you say I forgave and I didn't suffer, it wasn't really that serious a wrong. But if you have ever really, truly been wronged, and you have forgiven it, then you have suffered. Because all forgiveness is a form of suffering. If someone has wronged you deeply, there is an indelible sense of debt, an injustice, a feeling you can't just shrug off. And once you sense this deep injustice, this debt, there are only two things you can do. One is you can make the perpetrator pay - you can find ways to make the perpetrator suffer and pay down the debt, or two you can forgive.

O all you who walk by on the road, pay attention and see if there be any sorrow like my sorrow. Pay attention all people and look at my sorrow: if there be any sorrow like my sorrow.

The first candle is extinguished.

Let us pray together.

As you forgave those who harmed you, and those who silently watched, help us to suffer forgiveness for one another. Join our heart to yours, Lord Jesus. Amen.

THE SECOND WORD

³⁵And 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!" ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³He replied, "**Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.**"

Luke 23:35-43

LIGNUM VITAE

BERNARD FYLES

What wood is this?
Olive or oak, cedar or pine?
Unsuited for the cabinet makers' art
Unfit for turning, inlay, elegance,
too warped for any honest use,
door frame or ladder or carrier's cart.
What wood is this?
Sold cheap to minimize the grower's loss.
Too many knots, too twisted,
no good except for firewood or a cross.

What wood is this?
Rough joints, rope lashings,
hold it together for the task ahead,
and the carpenter's hands
that might have shaped it
as they shaped the world
are made to drag it through the streets
instead.
What wood is this?
It is the wood of death,
the wood of life.

Faithful cross, noblest among all trees.
 No forest offers such foliage, blossoms, and buds.
 Sweet wood and sweet nails carry the sweetest burden.

The second candle is extinguished.

Let us pray together.

As you offered words of promise to the criminal, may we also hear you offer words of promise to us. Join our heart to yours, Lord Jesus. Amen.

THE THIRD WORD

²⁵Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "**Woman, here is your son.**" ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "**Here is your mother.**" And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. John 19:25b-27

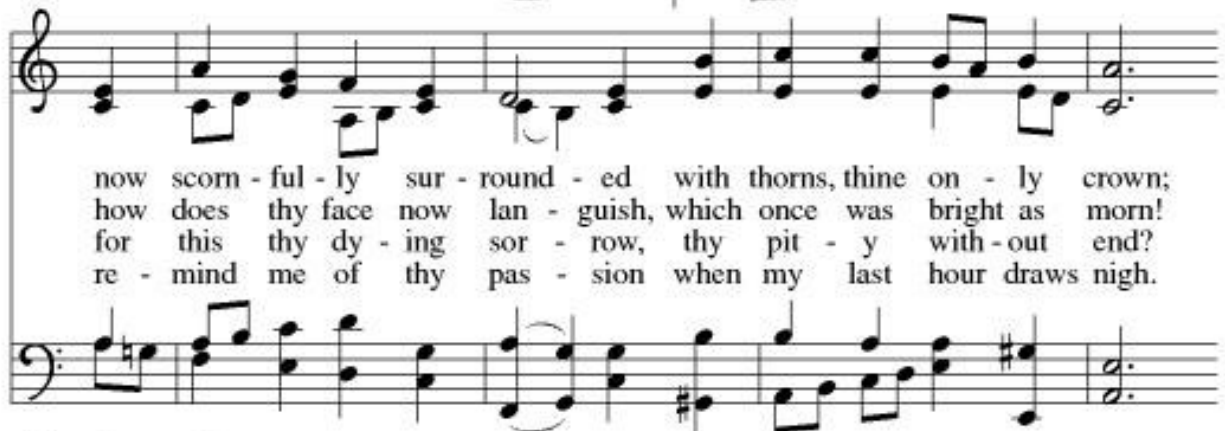
A READING FROM CLARE OF ASSISI: A HEART FULL OF LOVE

SISTER ILIA DELIO

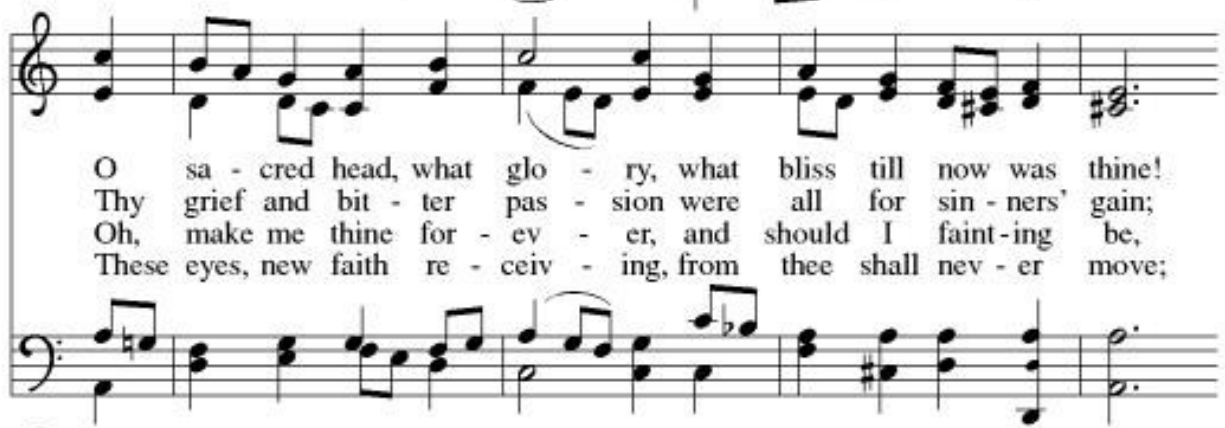
Place your mind before the mirror of eternity! I wonder how many of us look on the cross as the “mirror of eternity”—a reflection of eternity in the crucified Christ. We rarely think of eternity hanging on a cross unless of course we understand that eternity is God, God is love and God’s love is expressed in the crucified Christ. God is revealed as all-embracing, out-pouring love in the figure of the crucified Christ in whom we see a reflection of the eternal God who is the fullness of love. Gazing on the crucified Christ as a way of encountering God can be difficult because we are not attracted to crucified bodies or suffering humanity. To gaze on the crucified Christ is an embrace of the heart—a desire to allow the otherness of God’s love into our lives. It is difficult to see another person’s suffering, if we have not come to terms with our own suffering which opens us to receive the blessing and presence of God.



1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,
 2 How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;
 3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,
 4 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion; shield me when I must die;



now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
 how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!
 for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?
 re - mind me of thy pas - sion when my last hour draws nigh.



O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
 Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;
 Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,
 These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
 mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.
 for all who die be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.

The third candle is extinguished.

Let us pray together.

As you helped Mary, your mother and John, your friend, remain in the embrace of your heart, help us to experience your love in suffering. Join our heart to yours, Lord Jesus. Amen.

THE FOURTH WORD

³³When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

³⁴At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "**My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**"

³⁵When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah."

Mark 15:33-35

LEAD

Here is a story
to break your heart.
Are you willing?
This winter
the loons came to our harbor
and died, one by one,
of nothing we could see.
A friend told me
of one on the shore
that lifted its head and opened
the elegant beak and cried out
in the long, sweet savoring of its life
which, if you have heard it,
you know is a sacred thing,
and for which, if you have not heard it,

MARY OLIVER

you had better hurry to where
they still sing.
And, believe me, tell no one
just where that is.
The next morning
this loon, speckled
and iridescent and with a plan
to fly home
to some hidden lake,
was dead on the shore.
I tell you this
to break your heart,
by which I mean only
that it break open and never close again
to the rest of the world.

EARTH SONG

FRANK TICHELI

Sing, be, live, see
This dark stormy hour
The wind, it stirs
The scorched Earth cries out in vain

Oh war and power, you blind and blur
The torn heart cries out in pain

But music and singing have been my refuge
And music and singing shall be my light

A light of song, shining strong

Through darkness and pain and strife
I'll sing, I'll be, live, see

The fourth candle is extinguished.

Let us pray together.

As you cried out to God in anguish, help us to cry out to you, trusting you hear, and understand. Join our heart to yours, Lord Jesus. Amen.

THE FIFTH WORD

²⁸After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." ²⁹A 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. *John 19:28-29*

A READING FROM MOTHER THERESA'S DEVOTION TO THE THIRST OF JESUS EDWARD SRI

In the chapel of the Missionaries of Charity—the order founded by Mother Theresa, there's a crucifix with the words, "I THIRST" painted in bold black letters next to it. Mother Theresa said these words, "I thirst," were a constant reminder of the purpose of the Missionaries of Charity. She said: "We have these words in every chapel of the our order to remind us what we are here for: to quench the thirst of Jesus for souls, for love, for kindness, for compassion, for delicate love."

What specifically is Jesus thirsting for in us? He longs for our love — our attention, our ardent devotion, the total entrusting of our lives to Him. Mother Theresa says, "At this most difficult time He proclaimed, 'I thirst.' And people thought He was thirsty in an ordinary way and they gave Him vinegar straight away; but it was not for that thirst; it was for our love, our affection, that intimate attachment to Him, and that sharing of His passion. He used, 'I thirst,' instead of 'Give Me your love'. . . 'I thirst.' Let us hear Him saying it to me and saying it to you."

REQUIEM

ELIZA GILKYSON
(ARR. CRAIG HELLA JOHNSON)

Mother Mary, full of grace, awaken
All our homes are gone, our loved ones taken, taken by the sea
Mother Mary, calm our fears, have mercy
Drowning in a sea of tears, have mercy
Hear our mournful plea
Our world has been shaken
We wander our homelands forsaken

In the dark night of the soul
Bring some comfort to us all
Oh mother Mary come and carry us in your embrace
That our sorrows may be faced
Mary, fill the glass to overflowing
Illuminate the path where we are going
Have mercy on us all
In funeral fires burning
Each flame to your mystery returning

In the dark night of the soul
Your shattered dreamers, make them whole
Oh mother Mary find us where we've fallen out of grace
Lead us to a higher place

In the dark night of the soul
Our broken hearts you can make whole
Oh mother Mary come and carry us in your embrace
Let us see your gentle face, Mary

The fifth candle is extinguished.

Let us pray together.

As you thirst for our love, our attention, our ardent devotion, help us to quench your thirst with our lives, with our total trust, with our intimate attachment to you. Join our heart to yours, Lord Jesus. Amen.

THE SIXTH WORD

³⁰When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "**It is finished.**" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

John 19:30

O COME AND MOURN WITH ME AWHILE

FREDERICK WILLIAM FABER

O come and mourn with me awhile;
O come ye to the Savior's side;
O come, together let us mourn;
Jesus, our Love, is crucified.

Have we no tears to shed for him,
while soldiers scoff and foes deride?
Ah! look how patiently he hangs;
Jesus, our Love, is crucified.

How fast his hands and feet are nailed;
his blessed tongue with thirst is tied,
his failing eyes are blind with blood:
Jesus, our Love, is crucified.

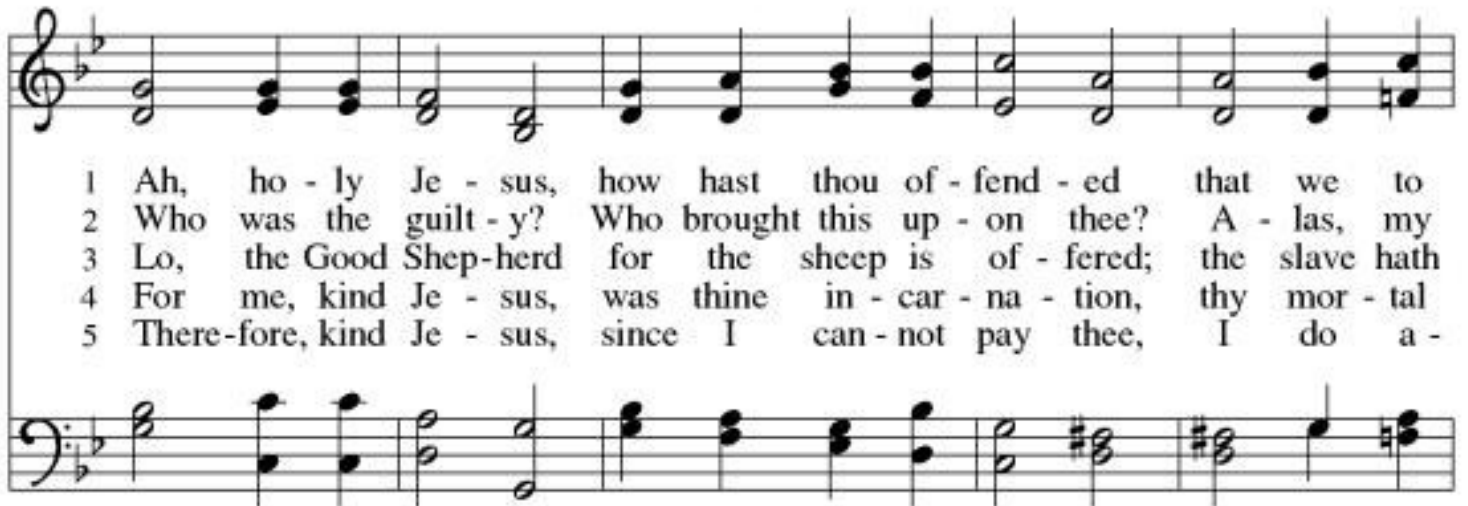
His mother cannot reach his face;
she stands in helplessness beside;
her heart is martyred with her Son's:
Jesus, our Love, is Crucified.

Seven times seven he spoke,
seven words of love;
and all three hours his silence cried
for mercy on the souls of men;
Jesus, our Love, is crucified.

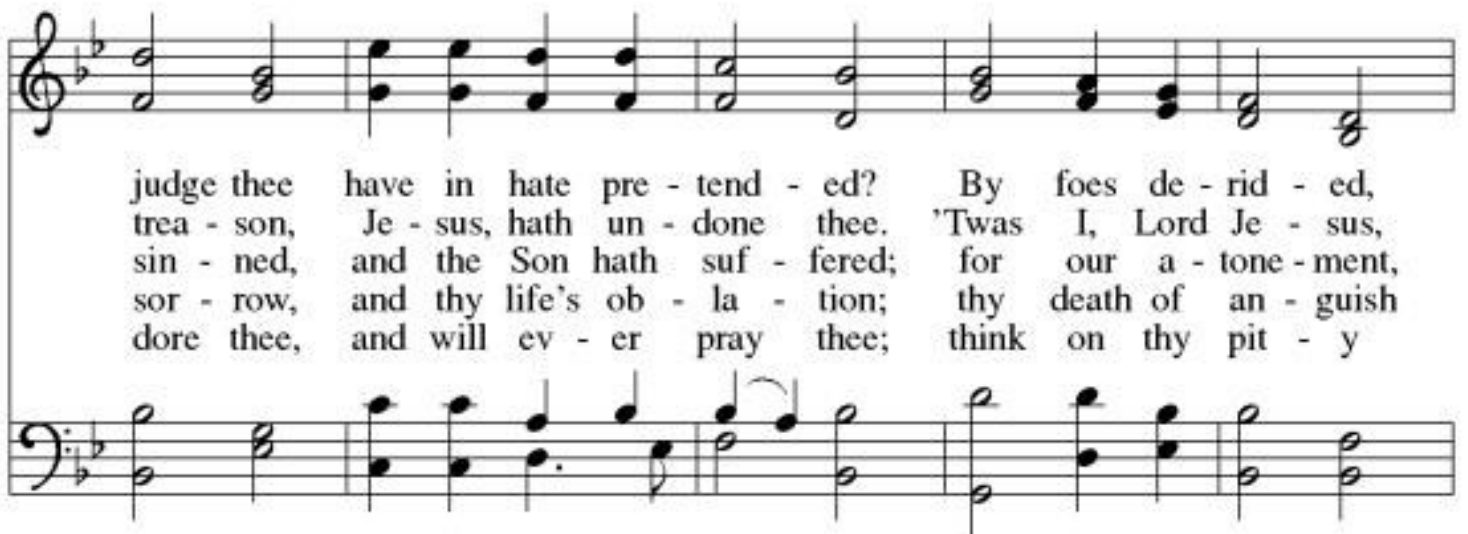
O break, O break, hard heart of mine!
Thy weak self-love and guilty pride
his Pilate and his Judas were:
Jesus, our Love, is crucified.

A broken heart, a fount of tears,
ask, and they will not be denied;
a broken heart love's cradle is:
Jesus, our Love, is crucified.

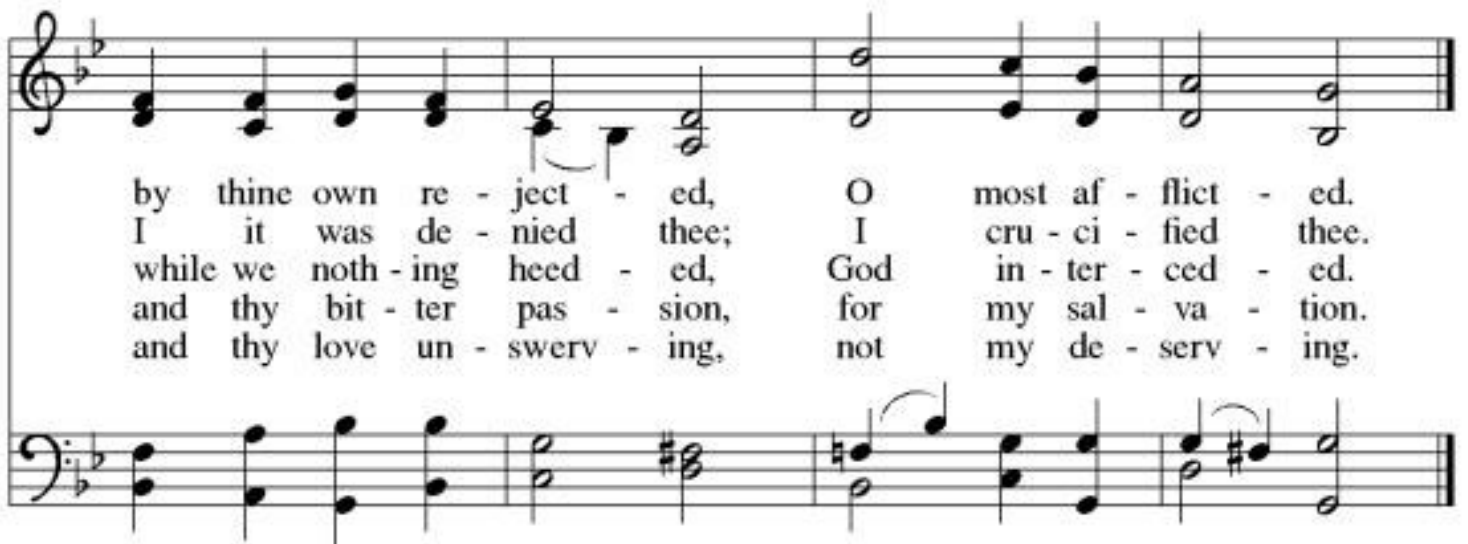
O love of God! O sin of man!
In this dread act your strength is tried;
and victory remains with love;
for he, our Love, is crucified.



1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we to
 2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my
 3 Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath
 4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal
 5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -



judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
 trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,
 sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,
 sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish
 dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee; think on thy pit - y



by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
 I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.
 while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.
 and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
 and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

The sixth candle is extinguished.

Let us pray together.

As you finished the demands of holy love - a body broken, a soul crucified - help us to find our wholeness in you. Join our heart to yours, Lord Jesus. Amen.

THE SEVENTH WORD

⁴⁴It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two.

⁴⁶Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "**Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.**" Having said this, he breathed his last.

Luke 23:44-46

THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST

WOMEN'S UNCOMMON PRAYERS

He can just lay it down.
He can just stop.
He has only just now realized,
in the lengthening spaces between ragged breaths,
that he can just not draw the next one.
He is almost there already;
the wall between the worlds is very thin.
Now he sees it's simple to go on from here:
just stop the breath, and let his spirit slip on home.
In every way, this death is ours:
the same fear becoming the same intentness,
the same directional change.
He has always said this, but we did not believe it.
We thought exception would be made for him
because we hope exception will be made for us.
But there are no exceptions.
We can lay it down or have it
wrested from us.
We are almost there already.

Silence

Let us pray together.

**As you enter the realm of death, may we trust that you usher us into the realm of life.
Join our heart to yours, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

The Christ candle is removed from the church.

MÉLODIE

C.W. VON GLÜCK

Let us pray together.

Lord, open unto me

Open unto me — **light for my darkness.**

Open unto me — **courage for my fear.**

Open unto me — **hope for my despair.**

Open unto me — **peace for my turmoil.**

Open unto me — **joy for my sorrow.**

Open unto me — **strength for my weakness.**

Open unto me — **wisdom for my confusion.**

Open unto me — **forgiveness for my sins.**

Open unto me — **love for my hates.**

Open unto me — **thy Self for my self.**

Lord, Lord, open unto me! Amen.

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.**

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Christ candle is returned to the church.

**The Light of Christ!
Thanks be to God! Amen!**

All leave in silence.

SERVING TODAY

Pastor Ellen Williams - *presiding*

Tom Blomquist, Bob Gibbons, Elizabeth Moon, Kathy Edgar - *lectors*

Austin Shortes - *candles*

Tim O'Brien - *Director of Music*

Austin Haller - *Organist & Associate Director of Music*

St. Martin's Choir

Jenny Ohrstrom, June Julian, *soprano*

Katherine Altobello O'Brien, *mezzo-soprano*

Brian Pettey, Evan Brown, *tenor*

Gil Zilkha, Anthony Ashley, *bass*

Eddie Jennings - *video*

Mike Kaase - *sound*

Norm Hummell - *ushers*

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The Seven Last Words of Christ from Women's Uncommon Prayers