



SEVEN
Last
Words
FROM THE
CROSS

Service of Darkness

GOOD FRIDAY

March 29, 2024; Noon



Immanuel Lutheran Church

Fargo, ND

*The congregation may enter the sanctuary in silence and prayer,
asking the Lord to help us experience the New Life that comes to us through the death of His Son.*

(There will be seven meditations upon the seven last words of our Lord on the cross.

After each, there will be a prayer followed by hymn verses.

The sanctuary becomes darker with each word of the cross.)

Opening Sentences

P: Let us confess our sins with each ebbing tide of darkness that overshadows the cross.

C: We would confess our guilt that nailed him to the tree.

P: Let us also give thanks unto God for the unspeakable gift of His Son.

C: We would thank Him that Christ has died in our place; and has won for us the forgiveness of all of our sins.

Father, take us this evening to Calvary's hill to there watch our Savior suffer and die. Instill in our hearts a true appreciation for what He has done for us. If there be any unrepentant sin in our hearts uproot it this evening and crucify it there. If there be any doubt that you are purest love, implant it this evening in the center of our minds. As we hear His last words from the cross, enable us to marvel at their tenderness, and apply them to our lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Opening Hymn

"Jesus, I Will Ponder Now"

(LSB 440)

**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.**

**Make me see Your great distress, Anguish, and affliction,
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness And Your crucifixion;**

**Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails did wound You,
How for them You died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned You.**

**Yet, O Lord, not thus alone Make me see Your passion,
But its cause to me make known And its termination.**

**Ah! I also and my sin Wrought Your deep affliction;
This indeed the cause has been Of Your crucifixion.**

**Grant that I Your passion view With repentant grieving.
Let me not bring shame to You By unholy living.
How could I refuse to shun Ev'ry sinful pleasure
Since for me God's only Son Suffered without measure?**

**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!**

**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.**

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The First Word from the Cross

Meditation *“A Lovely Rose among Ugly Thorns”*

Hymn Verses *“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”* (LSB 426, vv 1 & 3)

**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.**

**See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

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The First Shadow Falls

The Second Word from the Cross

Meditation *“One Rejects; Another Receives”*

Hymn Verses *“Christ, the Life of All the Living”* (LSB 420, vv 4 & 5)

**Heartless scoffers did surround Thee, Treating Thee with shameful scorn
And with piercing thorns they crowned Thee. All disgrace Thou, Lord, hast borne,
That as Thine Thou mightest own me And with heav'nly glory crown me.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.**

Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee That from pain I might be free;

**Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee: Thence I gain security;
Comfortless Thy soul did languish Me to comfort in my anguish.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.**

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The Second Shadow Falls

The Third Word from the Cross

Meditation *“Jesus Loves When He Needs It Most”*

Hymn Verses ***“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”*** *(LSB 449, vv 1 – 3)*

**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.**

**What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered Was all for sinners’ gain;
Mine, mine was the transgression, But Thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior! ’Tis I deserve Thy place;
Look on me with Thy favor, And grant to me Thy grace.**

**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 Third Shadow Falls

The Fourth Word from the Cross

Meditation *“God Has Forsaken the Beloved”*

Special Music *“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us,” by Stuart Townend*

*How deep the Father’s love for us, How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss – The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One Bring many sons to glory.*

*Behold the man upon a cross, My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life – I know that it is finished.*

*I will not boast in anything, No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection.*

*Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart – His wounds have paid my ransom.*

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The Fourth Shadow Falls

The Fifth Word from the Cross

Meditation *“Scripture is Fulfilled”*

Hymn Verses ***“Jesus, in Your Dying Woes”*** *(LSB 447, vv 13 – 15)*

**Jesus, in Your thirst and pain, While Your wounds Your lifeblood drain,
Thirsting more our love to gain: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**Thirst for us in mercy still; All Your holy work fulfill;
Satisfy Your loving will: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**May we thirst Your love to know. Lead us in our sin and woe
Where the healing waters flow: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

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The Fifth Shadow Falls

The Sixth Word from the Cross

Meditation *“Paid in Full”*

Hymn Verses ***“O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken”*** *(LSB 439, vv 1 – 3)*

**O dearest Jesus, what law hast Thou broken
That such sharp sentence should on Thee be spoken?
Of what great crime hast Thou to make confession, What dark transgression?**

**They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;
With cruel mockings to the cross they urge Thee;
They give Thee gall to drink, they still decry Thee; They crucify Thee.**

**Whence come these sorrows, whence this mortal anguish?
It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must languish;
Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost inherit, This I do merit.**

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The Sixth Shadow Falls

The Seventh Word from the Cross

Meditation *“Daddy, Take Me Home”*

Hymn Verses ***“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”*** *(LSB 437, vv 1,2,4)*

**Alas! And did my Savior bleed, And did my sov’rign die?
Would He devote that sacred head For such a worm as I?**

**Was it for crimes that I had done He groaned upon the tree?
 Amazing pity, grace unknown, And love beyond degree!**

**Thus might I hide my blushing face While His dear cross appears,
 Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, And melt mine eyes to tears.**

The Seventh Shadow Falls

Now, the eighth candle, the CHRIST CANDLE – not extinguished – is removed from the sanctuary and carried to the narthex. This reminds us of the light of the world which is removed from the cross and buried in the tomb.

Then the BOOK is closed, showing that Christ Jesus has now fulfilled the Law and the Prophets that He has led the perfect life for us and completed God's Covenant for us. The sound of the BOOK closing is also the sound of the stone being rolled in place over the mouth of the tomb.

A great noise is heard, symbolizing the clash between the powers of life and death, and the great earthquake that shook the earth and released from the tombs the many saints who went into Jerusalem after the resurrection.

The Christ Candle is then brought back and placed near where the Gospel is read each Sunday, reminding us that Jesus said He would rise again. We await the fulfillment of this hope after three days.

Hymn **“Lamb of God”** (LSB 550)

**Your only Son, no sin to hide, But You have sent Him from Your side
 To walk upon this guilty sod, And to become the Lamb of God**

Refrain: **Oh, Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God!
 Oh, wash me in His precious blood, My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

**Your gift of love, they crucified, They laughed and scorned Him as He died
 The humble King, they named a fraud, And sacrificed the Lamb of God.** *Refrain*

**I was so lost, I should have died: But You have brought me to Your side
 To be led by Your staff and rod, And to be called a lamb of God.** *Refrain*

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Closing Sentences

P: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

C: By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

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(All will please leave the sanctuary and narthex **in silence**, awaiting the rest of the story as it unfolds.)

Easter Services are held at 8 and 11 am on Sunday.

Worship Assistants: *Officiant: Pastor Bernie Worrall; Organist: Dr. Katie Rolf; Acolyte: Kinley Klein;
 Special Music: Mariah McCaul, soloist; Dr. Katie Rolf, piano;
 Head Usher for Service: Del McCoy; Videographer: Kay Tegtmeier*