



### **Be Gracious to Me!**

Nothing could be more natural than seeking revenge against one who has wronged you. Even the youngest child's untrained sense of fairness demands payback. God's children, however, are not to submit to human thinking but to the Word of God. What do the Scriptures say about our desire for revenge? When King David's enemies rose against him, the Holy Spirit inspired him to pray in Psalm 41:10: "But You, O Lord, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them!" David prays for vengeance, and God ordains vengeance. Yet the Scriptures also tell us not to "resist the one who is evil" (Matthew 5:39). What are we to make of this paradox? As with all matters of the faith, we must look to our Lord's crucifixion for the answer. For only by the cross is God gracious to you; only at the cross does He demand payment for every injustice.

# Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church & Preschool

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

**March 29, 2024**

Good Friday – Tenebrae

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## *Serving Today*

**Pastor Jonathan Christensen**

**Robert Hamrick, Organist**

**Craig Escude, Choir Director**

	<b><u>1:00 PM</u></b>	<b><u>7:00 PM</u></b>
<b>Elders</b>	<b>Paul Mincer</b>	<b>David White</b>
<b>Lectors</b>	<b>Jerry Kaufman</b>	<b>David White</b>

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## **Acknowledgments**

Good Friday, Tenebrae Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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**2606 Chimney Rock Road—Hendersonville, NC 28792**

**Church Phone 692-7027**

**Preschool Phone 698-5900**

**Church E-mail: [mtpisgahlcms@gmail.com](mailto:mtpisgahlcms@gmail.com)**

**Website: [www.mtpisgahlutheran.com](http://www.mtpisgahlutheran.com)**

**Church Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM M-TH**

**9:00 AM—1:00 PM on Friday**

# SERVICE OF THE WORD

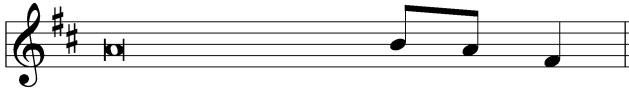
All enter the church in silence.

Stand

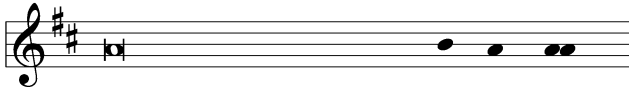
## Opening Versicles



**L** O Lord, o - pen my lips,



**C** and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



**L** Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.



**C** Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our sal - va - tion.

## Opening Sentences

*Philippians 2:8–9; Hebrews 9:12a, c, 15a, adapted*

- P** Christ Jesus humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
- C** Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name.
- P** Christ entered once for all into the holy places, by means of His own blood,
- C** thus securing an eternal redemption.
- P** Therefore He is the mediator of a new covenant,
- C** so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.

Psalm



- <sup>1</sup>In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be | put to shame;\*  
in your righteousness de- | liver me!
- <sup>2</sup>Incline your ear to me; rescue me | speedily!\*
- Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to | save me!
- <sup>3</sup>**For you are my rock and my | fortress;\***  
**and for your name's sake you lead me and | guide me;**
- <sup>4</sup>**you take me out of the net they have hidden | for me,\***  
**for you are my | refuge.**
- <sup>5</sup>Into your hand I commit my | spirit;\*
- you have redeemed me, O LORD, | faithful God.
- <sup>6</sup>I hate those who pay regard to worthless | idols,\*  
but I trust | in the LORD.
- <sup>7</sup>**I will rejoice and be glad in your | steadfast love,\***  
**because you have seen my affliction; you have known the distress | of my soul,**
- <sup>8</sup>**and you have not delivered me into the hand of the | enemy;\***  
**you have set my feet in a | broad place.**
- <sup>9</sup>Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am | in distress;\*
- my eye is wasted from grief; my soul and my body | also.
- <sup>10</sup>For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with | sighing;\*
- my strength fails because of my iniquity, and my bones | waste away.
- <sup>11</sup>**Because of all my adversaries I have become a reproach, especially to my neighbors,**  
**and an object of dread to my ac- | quaintances;\***  
**those who see me in the street | flee from me.**
- <sup>12</sup>**I have been forgotten like one | who is dead;\***  
**I have become like a broken | vessel.**
- <sup>13</sup>For I hear the whispering of many—terror on | every side!—\*
- as they scheme together against me, as they plot to | take my life.
- <sup>14</sup>But I trust in you, | O LORD;\*
- I say, "You | are my God."
- <sup>15</sup>**My times are | in your hand;\***  
**rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my perse- | cutors!**
- <sup>16</sup>**Make your face shine on your | servant;\***  
**save me in your | steadfast love!**

<sup>17</sup>O LORD, let me not be put to shame, for I call up- | on you;\*  
let the wicked be put to shame; let them go silently | to Sheol.

<sup>18</sup>Let the lying | lips be mute,\*  
which speak insolently against the righteous in pride | and contempt.

<sup>19</sup>**Oh, how abundant is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who | fear you\*  
and worked for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of the children of | mankind!**

<sup>20</sup>**In the cover of your presence you hide them from the | plots of men;\*  
you store them in your shelter from the | strife of tongues.**

<sup>21</sup>Blessèd | be the LORD,\*  
for he has wondrously shown his steadfast love to me when I was in a besieged | city.

<sup>22</sup>I had said in my alarm, "I am cut off | from your sight."\*  
But you heard the voice of my pleas for mercy when I cried to | you for help.

<sup>23</sup>**Love the LORD, all | you his saints!\***  
**The LORD preserves the faithful but abundantly repays the one who | acts in pride.**

<sup>24</sup>**Be strong, and let your heart take | courage,\*  
all you who wait | for the LORD!**

## Salutation

**P** The Lord be with you.

**G** And also with you.

## Collect

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** Amen.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 52:13—53:12*

**P** The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, the fifty-second and fifty-third chapters.

<sup>13</sup>Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted.  
<sup>14</sup>As many were astonished at you—his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—<sup>15</sup>so shall he sprinkle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand. <sup>1</sup>Who has believed what they heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? <sup>2</sup>For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.

<sup>3</sup>He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. <sup>4</sup>Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup>But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

<sup>6</sup>All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. <sup>7</sup>He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. <sup>8</sup>By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? <sup>9</sup>And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. <sup>10</sup>Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

<sup>11</sup>Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. <sup>12</sup>Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### *Silence*

**P** Let us pray.

Merciful and everlasting God, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all to bear our sins on the cross. Grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we fear not the power of sin, death, and the devil; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

### **Psalm**

*Psalm 41*

**P** Blessed is the one who considers the poor!

**C** **In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him;**

**P** the LORD protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land;

**C** **You do not give him up to the will of his enemies.**

**P** The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness You restore him to full health.

**C** **As for me, I said, "O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against You!"**

**P** My enemies say of me in malice, "When will he die and his name perish?"

**C** **And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad.**

**P** All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me.

- C** They say, “A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies.”
- P** Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.
- C** **But You, O LORD, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them!**
- P** By this I know that You delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.
- C** **But You have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in Your presence forever.**
- P** Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## Epistle

*Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9*

- P** The Epistle is from Hebrews, the fourth and fifth chapters.

<sup>14</sup>Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup>Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. . . .

<sup>7</sup>In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. <sup>9</sup>And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.

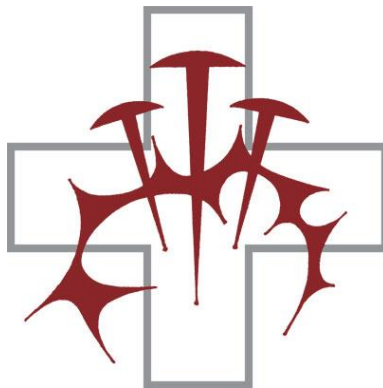
- P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Silence

- P** Let us pray... Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord’s passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**



# THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Hymn

450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded *sts. 1-3*



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 Thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered Was all for sin - ners' gain;



Now scorn - ful - ly sur-round - ed With thorns, Thine on - ly crown.  
How doth Thy face now lan-guish That once was bright as morn!  
Mine, mine was the trans-gres-sion, But Thine the dead - ly pain.



O sa - cred Head, what glo - ry, What bliss, till now was Thine!  
Grim death, with cru - el rig - or, Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;  
Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve Thy place;



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call Thee mine.  
Thus Thou hast lost Thy vig - or, Thy strength, in this sad strife.  
Look on me with Thy fa - vor, And grant to me Thy grace.

**P** The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John, the 19th chapter.

<sup>1</sup>Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. <sup>2</sup>And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. <sup>3</sup>They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. <sup>4</sup>Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him." <sup>5</sup>So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" <sup>6</sup>When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him." <sup>7</sup>The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God." <sup>8</sup>When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. <sup>9</sup>He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup>So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" <sup>11</sup>Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin."



<sup>12</sup>From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar." <sup>13</sup>So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. <sup>14</sup>Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" <sup>15</sup>They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." <sup>16</sup>So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

## Hymn

## 450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded *sts. 4-7*



4 My Shep - herd, now re - ceive me; My Guard - ian, own me Thine.  
 5 What lan - guage shall I bor - row To thank Thee, dear - est Friend,  
 6 My Sav - ior, be Thou near me When death is at my door;  
 7 Be Thou my con - so - la - tion, My shield, when I must die;



Great bless - ings Thou didst give me, O Source of gifts di - vine.  
 For this Thy dy - ing sor - row, Thy pit - y with - out end?  
 Then let Thy pres - ence cheer me, For - sake me nev - er - more!  
 Re - mind me of Thy pas - sion When my last hour draws nigh.



Thy lips have of - ten fed me With words of truth and love;  
 O make me Thine for - ev - er! And should I faint - ing be,  
 When soul and bod - y lan - guish, O leave me not a - lone,  
 Mine eyes shall then be - hold Thee, Up - on Thy cross shall dwell,



Thy Spir - it oft hath led me To heav'n - ly joys a - bove.  
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er, Out - live my love for Thee.  
 But take a - way mine an - guish By vir - tue of Thine own!  
 My heart by faith en - fold Thee. Who di - eth thus dies well.

## Stand

So they took Jesus, <sup>17</sup>and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. <sup>18</sup>There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. <sup>19</sup>Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." <sup>20</sup>Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. <sup>21</sup>So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" <sup>22</sup>Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

<sup>23</sup>When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, <sup>24</sup>so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says,

"They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots."

So the soldiers did these things, <sup>25</sup>but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup>When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" <sup>27</sup>Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

<sup>28</sup>After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." <sup>29</sup>A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. <sup>30</sup>When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Silence for Meditation*

## Responsory



- L** 1 We have an advocate with the Fa-ther; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.  
2 Blessed is he whose  
transgression is for - giv - en and whose sin is put a - way.  
3 We have an advocate with the Fa-ther; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.



- C** He was delivered up to death; He was delivered  
for the sins of the peo-ple.

*Silence for Meditation*

# REPROACHES

*Kneel/Sit*

- P** Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. For I have raised you up out of the prison house of sin and death, and you have delivered up your Redeemer to be scourged. For I have redeemed you from the house of bondage, and you have nailed your Savior to the cross. O My people.
- A** Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, leave us not to bitter death. O Lord, have mercy.

Hymn

607 From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee *st. 1*

1 From depths of woe I cry to Thee, In trial and  
trib - u - la - tion; Bend down Thy gra - cious  
ear to me, Lord, hear my sup - pli - ca - tion.  
If Thou re - mem - b'rest ev - 'ry sin, Who then could heav - en  
ev - er win Or stand be - fore Thy pres - ence?

- P** Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. For I have conquered all your foes, and you have given Me over and delivered Me to those who persecute Me. For I have fed you with My Word and refreshed you with living water, and you have given Me gall and vinegar to drink. O My people.
- A** Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, allow us not to lose hope in the face of death and hell. O Lord, have mercy.

## Hymn

## 607 From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee st. 2

2 Thy love and grace a - lone a - vail To blot out  
 my trans - gres - sion; The best and ho - liest  
 deeds must fail To break sin's dread op - pres - sion.  
 Be - fore Thee none can boast - ing stand, But all must fear Thy  
 strict de - mand And live a - lone by mer - cy.

- P** Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. What more could have been done for My vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? My people, is this how you thank your God? O My people.
- A** Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, keep us steadfast in the true faith. O Lord, have mercy.

## Hymn

## 607 From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee st. 5

5 Though great our sins, yet great - er still Is God's a -  
 bun - dant fa - vor; His hand of mer - cy  
 nev - er will A - ban - don us, nor wa - ver.  
 Our shep - herd good and true is He, Who will at last His  
 Is - rael free From all their sin and sor - row.

## Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

## Collect of the Day

- P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, You spared not Your only-begotten Son but gave Him unto death on the cross. Grant that in the midst of our failures and weaknesses, we may be delivered from all evil. Bring to our remembrance all that our Savior has done for us. Strengthen us to carry our burdens and to endure our sufferings as we, in faith, follow His holy example, always giving thanks to You for Your graciousness to us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- G** Amen.

*Sit*

## Hymn

## 425 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the  
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the  
3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor - row and  
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a



Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I  
death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that  
love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and  
trib - ute far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.  
sor - row meet Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all!

## Sermon

*Stand*

## Prayer of the Church

- P** Let us pray for the whole Christian Church, that in all times and in all places, it would be defended against all the assaults and temptations of the adversary and keep God's faithful people perpetually on the true foundation, Jesus Christ. Gracious Lord, in Your mercy,
- G** hear our prayer.

**P** We pray for all the ministers of the Word, for all vocations in the Church, for all the people of God here and everywhere, and for our catechumens, that they be mindful of their Baptism and evermore be found in Christ Jesus. Gracious Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** We pray for all those who are in authority that we may lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty, and we pray that the world would be delivered from all error, disease, famine, and all disruptive forces so that peace may abound among us. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** We pray for all people in our land and in every nation, including for our enemies and for all those who are outside of the Church, that there be a true love of concord and that all that is evil be turned into that which is good and salutary. Gracious Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** We pray for continuing blessing upon the fruits of the earth and on all who share the bounties of God so abundantly given to us, asking that we receive every divine gift with thanksgiving and respond to the blessings of God we are given with humble hearts and dedicated lives. Gracious Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Finally, we pray that we may continue living in faith all our days, ever looking to Jesus, who has won our salvation. Grant that our worship and devotion be blessed with concord, love, and peace. Gracious Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer. Amen.**

**P** O Lord,

**C** **have mercy.**

**P** O Christ,

**C** **have mercy.**

**P** O Lord,

**C** **have mercy.**

**C** **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.**

# TENEBRAE

## THE SEVEN WORDS FROM THE CROSS

Choral Composition from "The Seven Words from The Cross" by Richard Hillert

Choir

"Prologue"

### Sentences

*Psalm 130:1–8*

- P** Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD! O Lord, hear my voice!
- C** **Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!**
- P** If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?
- C** **But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.**
- P** I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;
- C** **my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.**
- P** O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.
- C** **And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.**

Choir

"Exordium"

### The First Word from the Cross

*"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34)*

Choir

"The First Word"

*Luke 23:33–34*

*The First Candle is Extinguished.*

### Prayer

- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father and Savior of the world, hear us as with humble and adoring hearts we remember Your seven words of love spoken on this day from the cross. Draw us into closer communion with Your Spirit, that the mind that was in You may also be found in us. We remember that, as they crucified You, You said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." If You, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with You that You may be feared. You Yourself bore our sins in Your own body on the tree that we, being dead to sin, should live to Your righteousness. In thanksgiving for this word, we worship and adore Your holy name.
- C** **Amen.**

*Silence*

## The Second Word from the Cross

“Woman, behold, your son! . . . Behold, your mother!” (John 19:26–27)

Choir

“The Second Word”

*John 19:25–27*

*The Second Candle is Extinguished.*

### Prayer

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father and Savior of the world, hear us as with humble and adoring hearts we remember Your seven words of love spoken on this day from the cross. Draw us into closer communion with Your Spirit, that the mind that was in You may also be found in us. We remember Your word to Your mother and the disciple, “Woman, behold, your son! Behold, your mother!” O Son of Man, who came to revive the spirit of the humble and to bind up the broken in heart, Your loving-kindness is better than life; therefore my lips shall praise You. My soul proclaims Your greatness, O Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. In thanksgiving for Your love shown to Mary, we worship and adore Your holy name.

**C** Amen.

*Silence*

## The Third Word from the Cross

“Truly I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.” (Luke 23:43)

Choir

“The Third Word”

*Luke 23:39-43*

*The Third Candle is Extinguished.*

### Prayer

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father and Savior of the world, hear us as with humble and adoring hearts we remember Your seven words of love spoken on this day from the cross. Draw us into closer communion with Your Spirit, that the mind that was in You may also be found in us. We remember Your promise to the penitent thief, “Truly I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.” With You, O Lord, is the fountain of life, and in Your light shall we see light. O Shepherd of the flock of God, who guides those who know Your voice in green pastures and beside the waters of comfort, when we awake we shall be satisfied with Your likeness. In thanksgiving for this word, we worship and adore Your holy name.

**C** Amen.

*Silence*



## The Fourth Word from the Cross

“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Mark 15:34)

Choir

“The Fourth Word”

*Mathew 27:45-46 [Mark 15:33-34]*

*The Fourth Candle is Extinguished*

### Prayer

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father and Savior of the world, hear us as with humble and adoring hearts we remember Your seven words of love spoken on this day from the cross. Draw us into closer communion with Your Spirit, that the mind that was in You may also be found in us. We remember the loneliness of that loud cry, which burst from Your overburdened heart, while the dread darkness lay upon the land: “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” O Son of God, beloved of the Father, was ever sorrow like Your sorrow? You were despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. For our transgressions, You were wounded; for our iniquities, You were bruised; the chastisement of our peace was upon You, and with Your stripes we are healed. All we, like sheep, had gone astray. We had turned, every one to his own way, and God the Father laid on You the iniquity of us all. In thanksgiving for the depth and breadth of Your love for us, we worship and adore Your holy name.

**C** Amen.

Choir

“Verses from Isaiah”

*Isaiah 53:4-5*

*Silence*

## The Fifth Word from the Cross

“I thirst.” (John 19:28)

Choir

“The Fifth Word”

*John 19:28*

*The Fifth Candle is Extinguished*

### Prayer

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father and Savior of the world, hear us as with humble and adoring hearts we remember Your seven words of love spoken on this day from the cross. Draw us into closer communion with Your Spirit, that the mind that was in You may also be found in us. We remember how, in fulfillment of the Scriptures, You said, “I thirst.” Was it not written of You, “My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and My tongue sticks to my jaws; You lay Me in the dust of death” (Psalm 22:15)? Yet Your word endures. If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. O fount of life, who thirsts for the souls of all, my soul thirsts for You in a dry and thirsty land, where there is no water. In thanksgiving for the thirst that brings us to You, we worship You and adore Your holy name.

**C** Amen.

*Silence*

## The Sixth Word from the Cross

“It is finished.” (John 19:30)

Choir

“The Sixth Word”

John 19:29–30

*The Sixth Candle is Extinguished*

### Prayer

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father and Savior of the world, hear us as with humble and adoring hearts we remember Your seven words of love spoken on this day from the cross. Draw us into closer communion with Your Spirit, that the mind that was in You may also be found in us. We remember the word that from Your lips alone was very truth: “It is finished.” O Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the author and finisher of the faith, for the joy that was set before You, You endured the cross, despising the shame, and now are seated at the right hand of the throne of God. In thanksgiving for Your accomplishment of all that is needed for our salvation, we worship and adore Your holy name.

**G** Amen.

*Silence*

*Stand*

## The Seventh Word from the Cross

“Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit!” (Luke 23:46)

Choir

“The Seventh Word”

Luke 23:44–46

*The Final Candle is Extinguished.*

Choir

“Lamb of God, Pure and Sinless”

### Prayer

**L** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father and Savior of the world, hear us as with humble and adoring hearts we remember Your seven words of love spoken on this day from the cross. Draw us into closer communion with Your Spirit, that the mind that was in You may also be found in us. We remember that when You had cried with a loud voice, You said, “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit!” Then, bowing Your head, You breathed Your last. O Savior of the world, whom have I in heaven but You? And there is nothing upon earth that I desire besides You. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. Into Your hands I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God. In thanksgiving for Your life, given on the cross for our redemption, we worship and adore Your holy name.

**G** Amen.

*Silence*

## The Burial of Jesus

John 19:31–42

<sup>31</sup>Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. <sup>32</sup>So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. <sup>33</sup>But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. <sup>34</sup>But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. <sup>35</sup>He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. <sup>36</sup>For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.” <sup>37</sup>And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.”

<sup>38</sup>After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. <sup>39</sup>Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. <sup>40</sup>So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. <sup>41</sup>Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. <sup>42</sup>So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

### Choir

“Epilog”

### Collect

**P** Let us pray.

Gracious Jesus, our Lord and our God, You have taken our sins in Your own body on the tree of the cross so that we, being dead to sin, might live unto righteousness. Have mercy upon us now and at the hour of our death, and grant to us, Your servants, with all others who devoutly remember Your blessed passion, a holy and peaceful life in this world and through Your grace eternal glory in the life to come.

**C** Amen.

### The Darkness of Death

*All light is extinguished as a reminder of the darkness of death and the grave.*

### Strepitus

*A loud sound is heard. Historically this had been done to symbolize the rolling of the stone to close the tomb.*

### Solo

“O Perfect Life of Love”

*The Light is carried back into the Sanctuary and a candle is re-lit in anticipation of Easter.*

*All leave in reverent silence.*