



Perspectives *of the* Passion

Good Friday
April 7, 2023

The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills

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GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

April 7, 2023

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During the six hours Jesus spent nailed to the cross, our Lord spoke seven times, and these memorable utterances from the cross have come to be known as "The Seven Words". They were His last words. In seven brief utterances, Jesus proclaimed the most profound sermon that has ever been preached, a beautiful proclamation of the Gospel.

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CHORAL PRELUDE

C. Idle/L. Larson

"When You Prayed beneath the Trees"

*When You prayed beneath the trees, it was for me, O Lord;
When You cried upon Your knees, how could it be, O Lord?
When in blood and sweat and tears, You dismissed Your final fears,
When You faced the soldiers' spears, You stood for me, O Lord.*

*When their triumph looked complete, it was for me, O Lord;
When it seemed like Your defeat, they could not see, O Lord!
When You faced the mob alone, You were silent as a stone,
And a tree became Your throne; You came for me, O Lord.*

*When You stumbled up the road, You walked for me, O Lord;
When You took Your deadly load, that heavy tree, O Lord;
When they lifted You on high, and they nailed You up to die,
And when darkness filled the sky, it was for me, O Lord.*

SOLEMN RINGING OF THE BELLS

~Please stand and face the Processional Cross~

OPENING PRAYER

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.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN

“Were You There”

LSB #456 (v. 1-2)



1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you
2 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Were you



there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Oh ...
there when they nailed Him to the tree? Oh ...



Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.
Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

+The Seven Words from the Cross+

First Word:

“Father forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”

Luke 23:32-38

-First Candle Is Extinguished-

REFLECTION:

“From the Perspective of the Roman Centurion”

HYMN

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

LSB #449 (v. 1,2)



1 O sa - cred Head, now wound - ed, With grief and shame weighed down,
2 What Thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered Was all for sin - ners' gain;



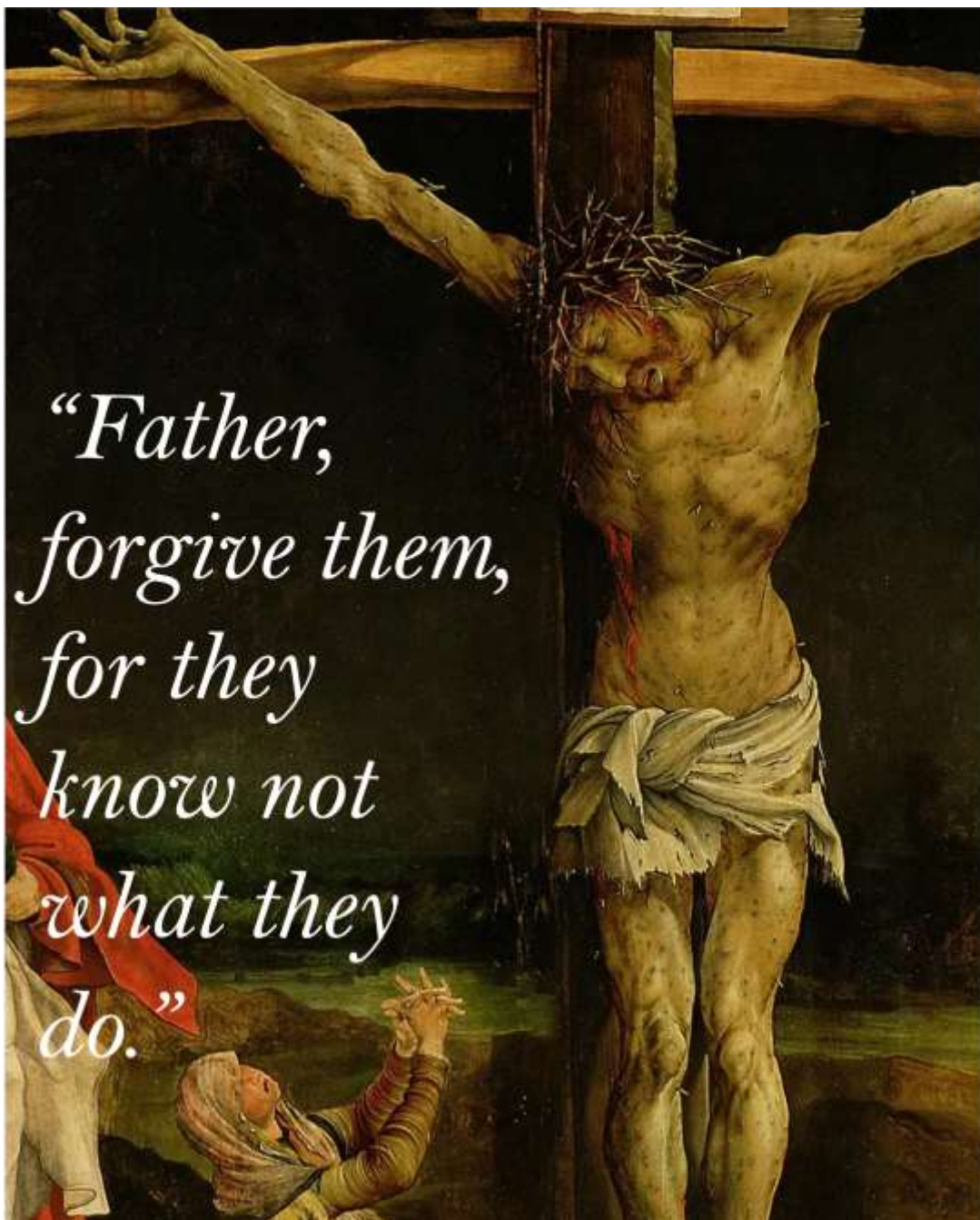
Now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed With thorns, Thine on - ly crown.
Mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, But Thine the dead - ly pain.



O sa - cred Head, what glo - ry, What bliss, till now was Thine!
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.
Look on me with Thy fa - vor, And grant to me Thy grace.



Second Word:

“Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.”

Luke 23:39-43

-Second Candle Is Extinguished-

REFLECTION:

“From the Perspective of the Thief on the Cross”

CHORAL ANTHEM

C. Hodge/L. Larson

“On the Mount Called Calvary”

Who is this that hangs beside me on a cruel, wooden tree?

Jesus Christ the King of Jewry, crucified on Calvary?

While we offer Him derision and we laugh, and mock, and scorn,

Jesus prays for our forgiveness as He wears a crown of thorns.

Jesus wears a crown of thorns.

He prays, “Father, now forgive them, they are caught in misery,

For they know not what they are doing on the Mount called Calvary.”

When my mouth is filled with curses, Your pure lips store no deceit.

Can Your heart forgive the debtor, is Your cross my mercy seat?

Think of me, O King of glory, when You rise on clouds above.

Think of me from heaven’s portal; I, the sinner, whom You love,

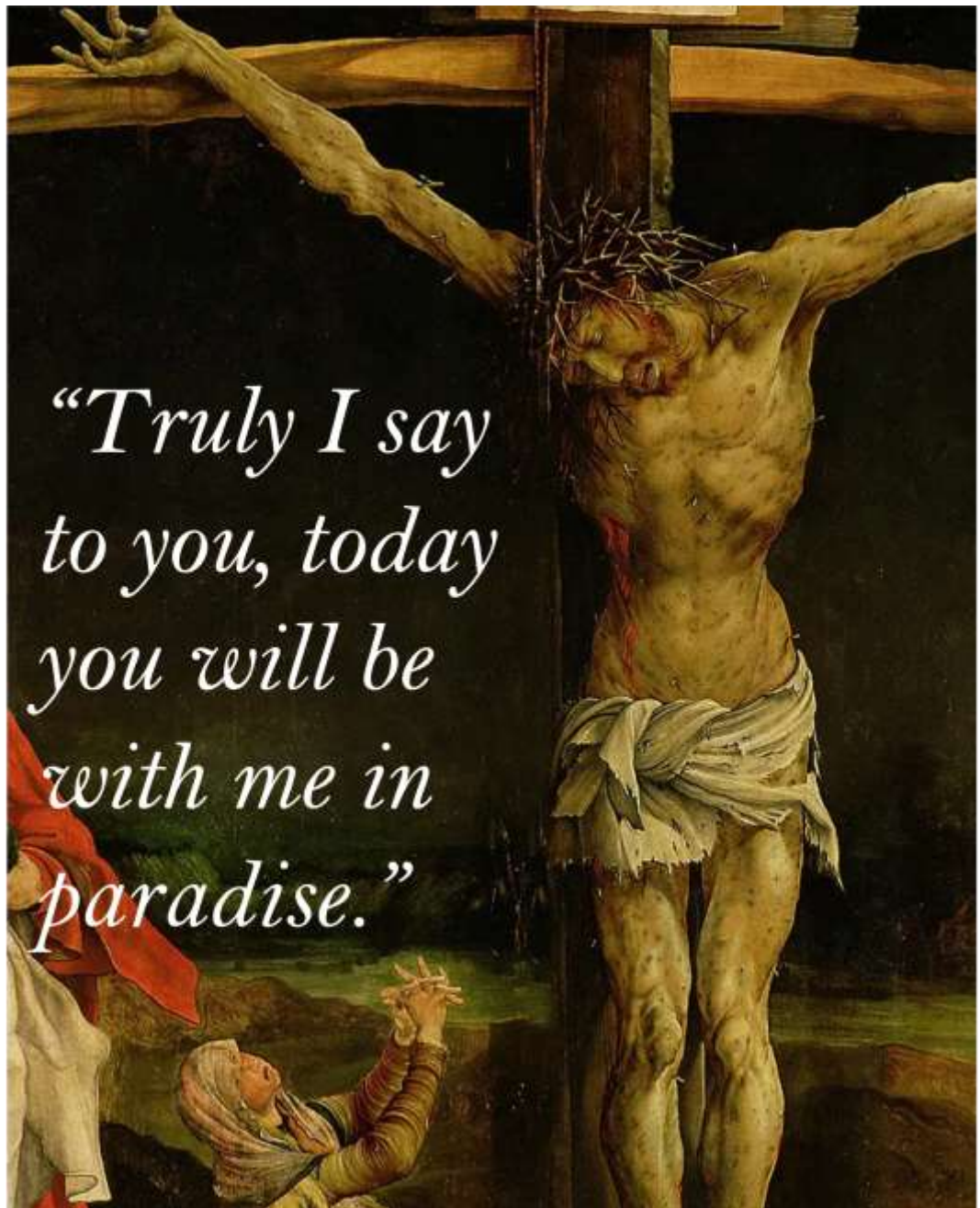
I, the sinner, whom You love.

He prays, “Father, now forgive them, they are caught in misery,

And they know not what they are doing on the Mount called Calvary.”

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!



*“Truly I say
to you, today
you will be
with me in
paradise.”*

Third Word:

“Woman, behold, your son! Behold, your mother!”

John 19:23-27

-Third Candle Is Extinguished-

REFLECTION:

“From the Perspective of John”

HYMN

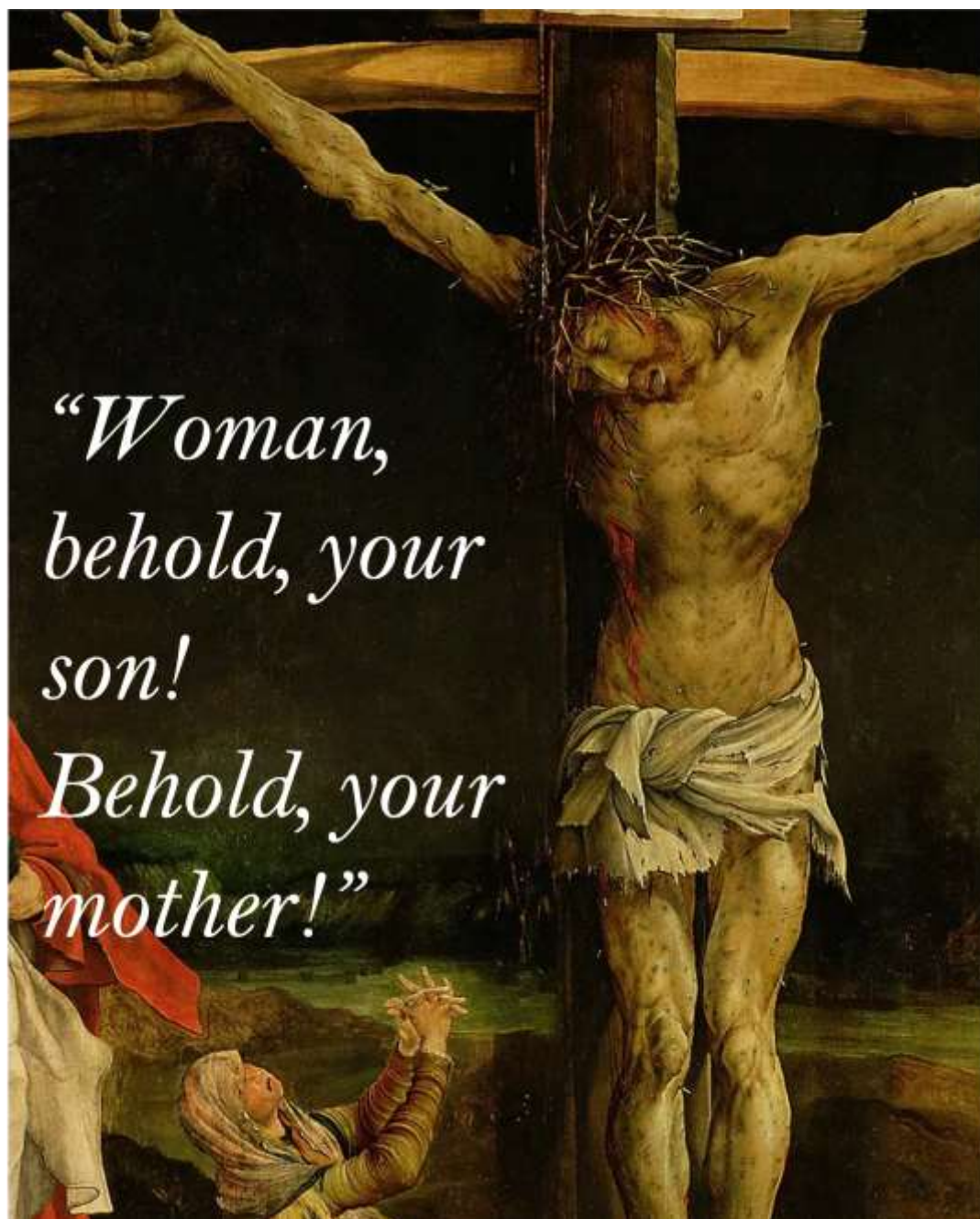
“Jesus, in Your Dying Woes”

LSB #447 (v. 7-9)

**Jesus, loving to the end
Her whose heart Your sorrows rend,
And Your dearest human friend:
Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**May we in Your sorrows share,
For Your sake all peril dare,
And enjoy Your tender care:
Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**May we all Your loved ones be,
All one holy family,
Loving, since Your love we see:
Hear us, holy Jesus.**



*“Woman,
behold, your
son!
Behold, your
mother!”*

Fourth Word:

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Matthew 27:46-54

-Fourth Candle Is Extinguished-

REFLECTION:

“From the Perspective of the Bystanders”

HYMN

“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”

LSB #451 (v. 1-3)



1 Strick-en, smit-ten, and af - flict - ed, See Him dy - ing on the
2 Tell me, ye who hear Him groan-ing, Was there ev - er grief like
3 Ye who think of sin but light - ly Nor sup - pose the e - vil



tree! 'Tis the Christ, by man re - ject - ed; Yes, my
His? Friends through fear His cause dis - own - ing, Foes in -
great Here may view its na - ture right - ly, Here its



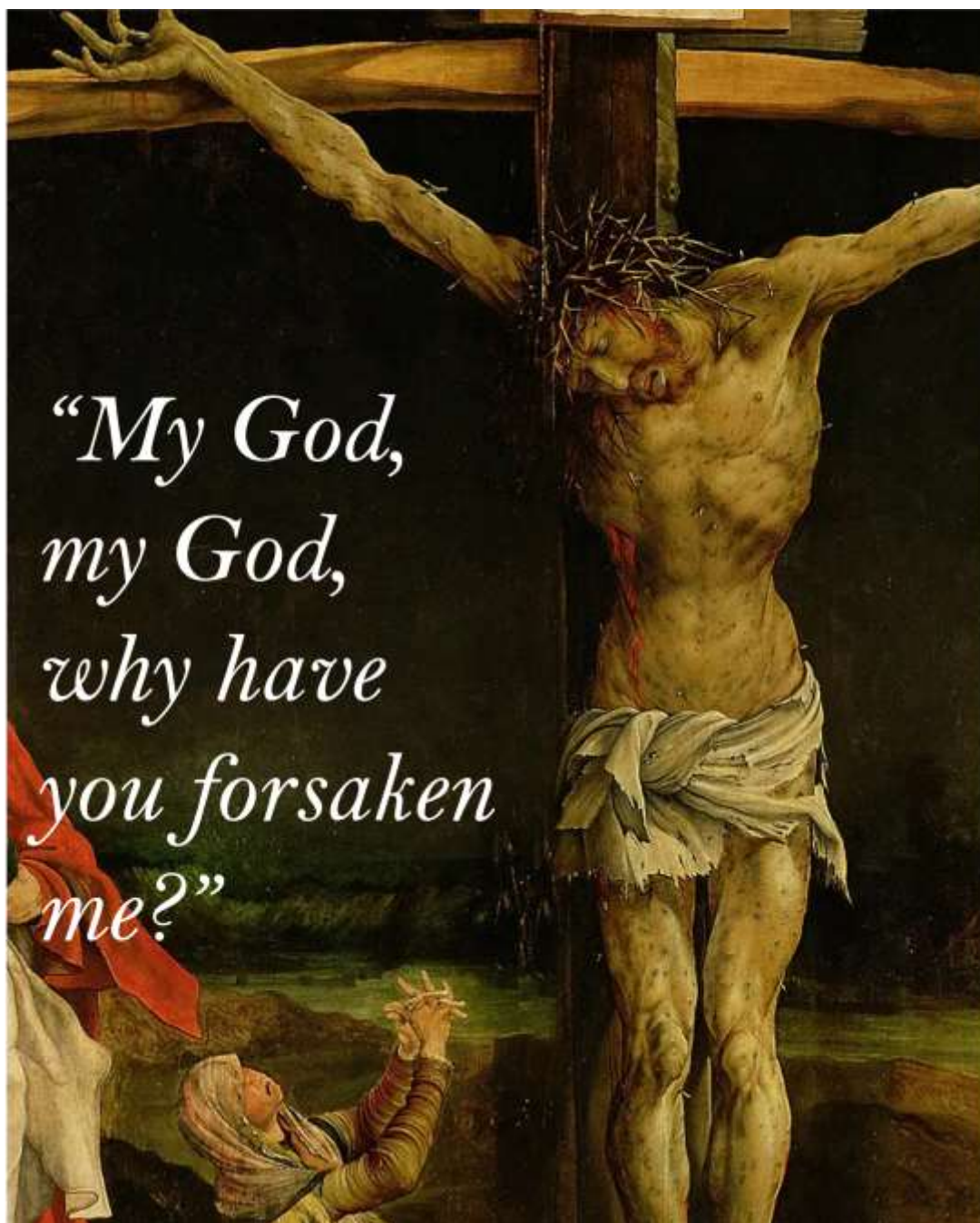
soul, 'tis He, 'tis He! 'Tis the long - ex - pect - ed
sult - ing His dis - tress; Man - y hands were raised to
guilt may es - ti - mate. Mark the sac - ri - fice ap -



Proph - et, Da - vid's Son, yet Da-vid's Lord; Proofs I
wound Him, None would in - ter - vene to save; But the
point - ed, See who bears the aw - ful load; 'Tis the



see suf - fi - cient of it: 'Tis the true and faith - ful Word.
deep - est stroke that pierced Him Was the stroke that jus - tice gave.
Word, the Lord's a - noint - ed, Son of Man and Son of God.



Fifth Word:

“I thirst.”

John 19:28-29

-Fifth Candle Is Extinguished-

REFLECTION:

“From the Perspective of the Prophets”

HYMN

“O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken”

LSB #439 (v. 1-2)



1 O dear - est Je - sus, what law hast Thou bro - ken
2 They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;



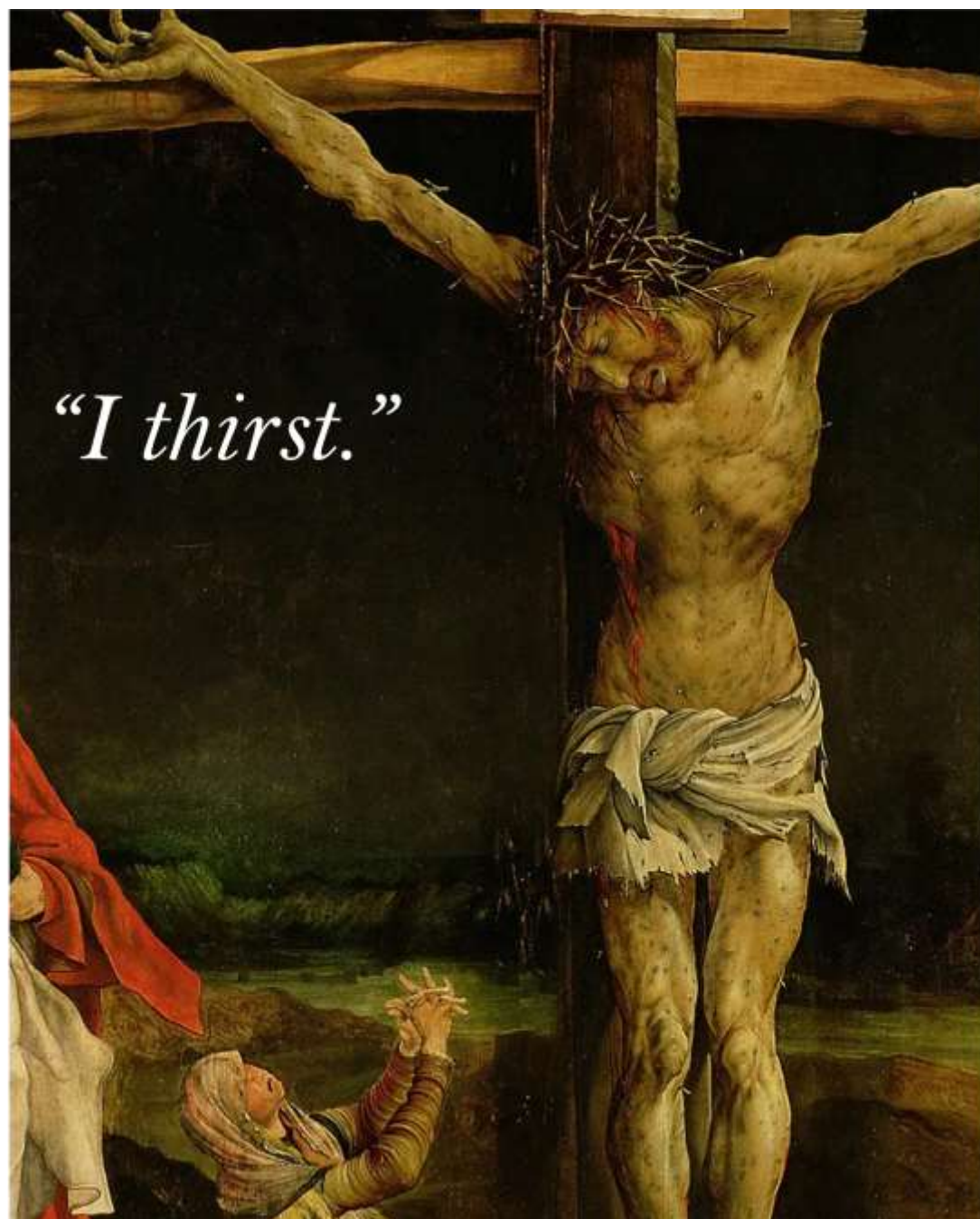
That such sharp sen - tence should on Thee be spo - ken?
With cru - el mock - ings to the cross they urge Thee;



Of what great crime hast Thou to make con -
They give Thee gall to drink, they still de -



fes - sion, What dark trans - gres - sion?
cry Thee; They cru - ci - fy Thee.



“I thirst.”

Sixth Word:

“Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.”

Luke 23:44-49

-Sixth Candle Is Extinguished-

REFEFECTION:

“From the Perspective of Heaven”

HYMN

“Deep Were His Wounds”

Lutheran Supplement #821

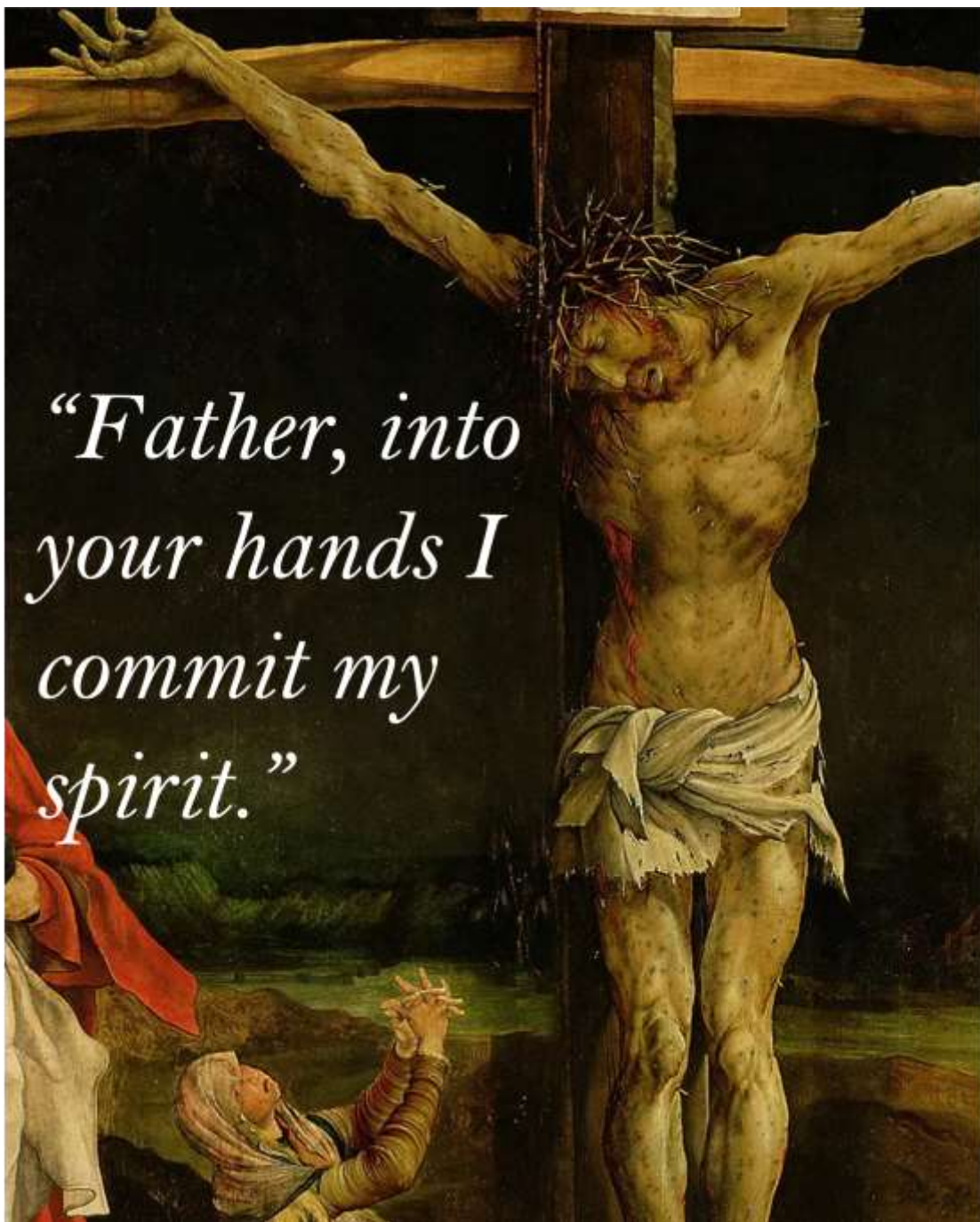
Choir:

*Deep were His wounds, and red, on cruel Calvary,
As on the cross He bled in bitter agony.
But they, whom sin has wounded adore,
Find healing in the wounds He bore.*

*He suffered shame and scorn, and wretched, dire disgrace;
Forsaken and forlorn, He hung there in our place.
But all who would from sin be free
Look to His cross for victory.*

Congregation:

**His life, His all, He gave when He was crucified;
Our burdened souls to save, what fearful death He died!
But each of us, though dead in sin,
Through Him eternal life may win.**



*"Father, into
your hands I
commit my
spirit."*

Seventh Word:
“It is finished.”
John 19:30,38-42

-Seventh Candle Is Extinguished-

REFLECTION

“From the Perspective of Nicodemus”

CHORAL ANTHEM

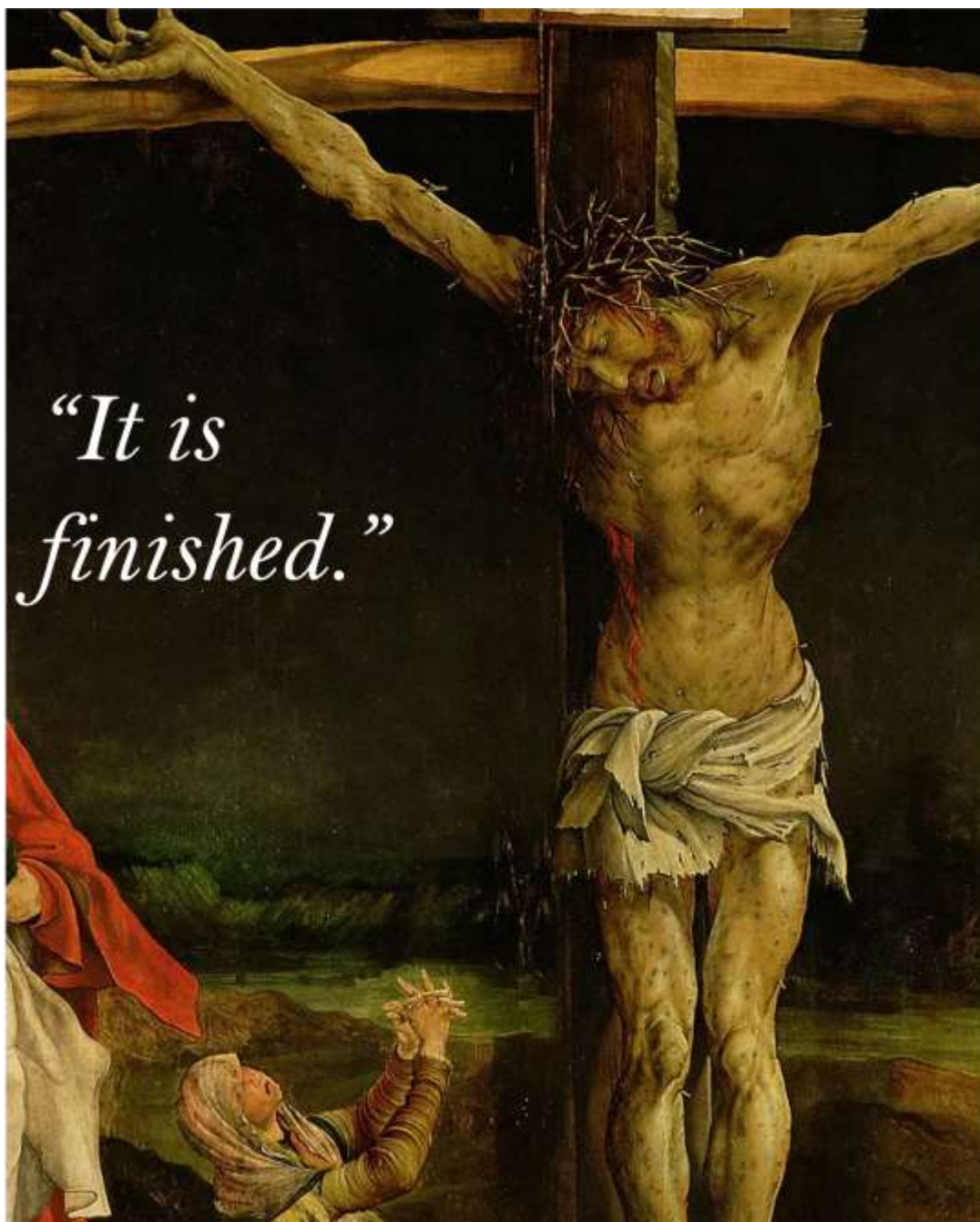
arr. F. Lopez

“It Is Finished, Tetelestai”

*“Tetelestai, it is finished,” hear Him cry.
The work Christ came to do, has been done.
There on the tree, as darkness filled the earth,
“Tetelestai,” the price for sin now paid in full.*

*From His head, His hands and feet, love and sorrow mingled down.
See such love and sorrow meet, thorns compose so rich a crown.*

*“Tetelestai, it is finished,” hear Him cry.
The work Christ came to do, He has done.
There on the tree, as darkness filled the earth,
“Tetelestai,” the price for sin now paid in full.
“It is finished, Tetelestai.”*



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”

LSB #456 (v. 3)

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Oh . . . Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

THE STREPITUS

THE DISMISSAL

“Abide with Me”

String Quartet

~Everyone is asked to go directly and silently to their cars,
reflecting on the great sacrifice of our Savior for us all.~

Liturgist:

Rev. Clifford Hellmers, Pastor Emeritus

Reflections:

Rev. Michael Ahlemeyer

Vicar Andrew Frerichs

Special 'Thank You' to our musicians:

Organ/Piano: Ruth Johnson

Violins: Troy Blast, Levon Margyan

Viola: Michael Fernandez

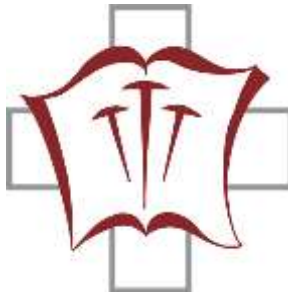
Cello: Payton Ahlemeyer

Flute: Melissa Phillips

Clarinet: Gloria Phillips

Oboe: Daniel Phillips

LCVH Adult Choir





THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF VESTAVIA HILLS

201 So. Montgomery Highway Birmingham, Alabama 35216
Church office: 205-823-1883 PreSchool/MDO: 205-791-5200
Web Site: www.vestavialutheran.org
WORSHIP: 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sundays
SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:15 a.m.
Church Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday



PASTOR: The Reverend Michael D. Ahlemeyer – pastor@vestavialutheran.org text: 205-201-8866

PASTOR EMERITUS: The Reverend Clifford Hellmers – vestluth@juno.com 205-422-4951

VICAR: Andrew Frerichs – vicar@vestavialutheran.org

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: Ruth Johnson – ruthinbham@gmail.com

DIRECTOR OF MOTHER'S DAY OUT: Brooke Heisler – bheisler@vestavialutheran.org

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: Leigh Walter – lwalter@vestavialutheran.org

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR ASSISTANT: Amy Alvis - aalvis@vestavialutheran.org

BOOK KEEPER: Melanie Goodson - bookkeeper@vestavialutheran.org

ADOPTED MEDICAL MISSIONARIES - Arianna and David Shirk, Madeline & Annabelle - shirkdavid@gmail.com



TO OUR GUESTS: We offer you a warm welcome in the name of Jesus. Please sign the Friendship Register. If you do not have a church home, we would be delighted to have you become a part of our church family. Please feel free to speak with the Pastor about membership in our congregation. If you do have a church home, we pray that God will bless you as you continue your growth in faith and love.



SUNDAY SCHOOL Adult Bible Classes meets in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall at 9:15 a.m. Children, Confirmation, and Youth classes also meet at 9:15 a.m. in the class rooms downstairs.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH and NURSERY Following the Children's Message, all children ages 3-7 are invited to Children's Church downstairs. They will return to the sanctuary after the sermon. A nursery attendant is provided for children ages birth to 3 years during our 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM services.



COMMUNION We invite all baptized Christians who acknowledge their sinfulness, trust in Christ as their Savior, and who recognize the real presence of Christ's Body and Blood in the bread and wine to join us at the Communion table. The practice of our congregation is to place the bread into the extended hand of the communicant. The wine is offered in individual cups; please take one from the tray as it is offered by the Elder. The common cup will be offered to those who do not take an individual cup. The cups in the center of the tray are filled with non-alcoholic wine, in consideration of persons who should not drink wine. Also, children who have not received Communion instruction are invited to come to the Communion rail, fold their hands and receive a blessing.