

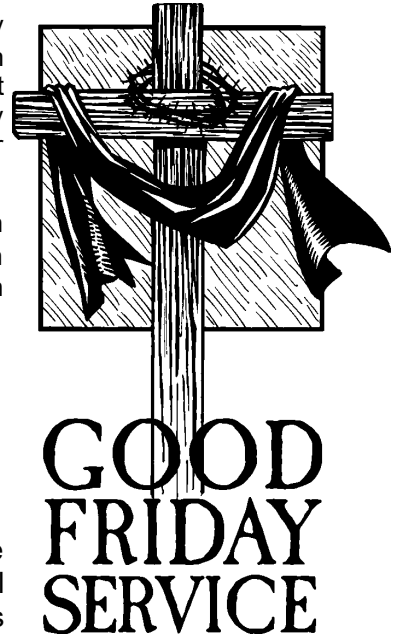


**ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
139 Craigs Meadow Road, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301 570-223-9422  
[www.http://www.stpaulscommunitychurch.com/](http://www.stpaulscommunitychurch.com/)  
Email: [stpaulscraigsmeadow@verizon.net](mailto:stpaulscraigsmeadow@verizon.net)

Supply Pastor: Pr. Joseph A. Veres

**Welcome and Blessings!** Good Friday... a continuation of Maundy Thursday and the Triduum. It is unique that we never leave worship, but 'recess' to once again gather for the next part of Holy Week's journey. We walk as Jesus did trusting that our broken and sinful humanity needs the cross. We welcome everyone, especially those who may be visitors. We give you thanks and thank our gracious God for your presence.

**Offering Envelops** We encourage to send your regular offering to the church at the above listed address. You may also wish to consider "Simply Giving" which automatically remits your chosen offering amount to the church; contact the Church Office, 570-223-9422 if you have questions.



**Good Friday**  
**April 10, 2020 - 2:00 PM**

**\*Prayer of the Day**

**P** Merciful God, your Son was lifted upon the cross to draw all people to himself. Grant that we who are cleansed by his wounded side may at all times find mercy in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen**

**P** A reading from Isaiah

**First Lesson**

**Isaiah 52:13—53:12**

<sup>13</sup>See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. <sup>14</sup>Just as there were many who were astonished at him—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals—<sup>15</sup>so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

<sup>53:1</sup>Who has believed what we have heard? 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, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. <sup>3</sup>He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces, he was despised, and we held him of no account. <sup>4</sup>Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup>But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

<sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our 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 did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. <sup>8</sup>By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. <sup>9</sup>They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, 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 with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the LORD shall prosper. <sup>11</sup>Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my

servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. <sup>12</sup>Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

**P** The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Psalm**

**Psalm 22:1-31**

<sup>1</sup>My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

**<sup>2</sup>My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer;  
by night, but I find no rest.**

<sup>3</sup>Yet you are the Holy One,  
enthroned on the praises of Israel.

**<sup>4</sup>Our ancestors put their trust in you,  
they trusted, and you rescued them.**

<sup>5</sup>They cried out to you and were delivered;  
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.

**<sup>6</sup>But as for me, I am a worm and not human,  
scorned by all and despised by the people.**

<sup>7</sup>All who see me laugh me to scorn;  
they curl their lips; they shake their heads.

**<sup>8</sup>“Trust in the LORD; let the LORD deliver;  
let God rescue him if God so delights in him.”**

<sup>9</sup>Yet you are the one who drew me forth from the womb,  
and kept me safe on my mother's breast.

**<sup>10</sup>I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born;  
you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.**

<sup>11</sup>Be not far from me, for trouble is near,  
and there is no one to help.

**<sup>12</sup>Many young bulls encircle me;  
strong bulls of Bashan surround me.**

<sup>13</sup>They open wide their jaws at me,  
like a slashing and roaring lion.

**<sup>14</sup>I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint;  
my heart within my breast is melting wax.**

<sup>15</sup>My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;  
and you have laid me in the dust of death.

**<sup>16</sup>Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers circles round me;  
they pierce my hands and my feet.**

<sup>17</sup>I can count all my bones  
while they stare at me and gloat.

**<sup>18</sup>They divide my garments among them;  
for my clothing, they cast lots.**

<sup>19</sup>But you, O LORD, be not far away;  
O my help, hasten to my aid.

<sup>20</sup>**Deliver me from the sword,  
my life from the power of the dog.**

<sup>21</sup>Save me from the lion's mouth!  
From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.

<sup>22</sup>**I will declare your name to my people;  
in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.**

<sup>23</sup>You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.  
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

<sup>24</sup>**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's  
face hidden from them;  
but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

**Anthem**

**"Now We Remain"**

*May and Kathy Ertle*

**\*Gospel Acclamation**

*Music Page 151*

**C** ***Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.***

**Gospel**

**John 18:1—19:42**

**P** The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**Chapter 18**

<sup>1</sup>After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. <sup>2</sup>Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. <sup>3</sup>So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. <sup>4</sup>Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" <sup>5</sup>They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. <sup>6</sup>When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. <sup>7</sup>Again he asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." <sup>8</sup>Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go." <sup>9</sup>This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave

me." <sup>10</sup>Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. <sup>11</sup>Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

<sup>12</sup>So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. <sup>13</sup>First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. <sup>14</sup>Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

<sup>15</sup>Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, <sup>16</sup>but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So, the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. <sup>17</sup>The woman said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." <sup>18</sup>Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

<sup>19</sup>Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. <sup>20</sup>Jesus answered, "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. <sup>21</sup>Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" <sup>24</sup>Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

<sup>25</sup>Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, "You are not also one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." <sup>26</sup>One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" <sup>27</sup>Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

<sup>28</sup>Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. <sup>29</sup>So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" <sup>30</sup>They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." <sup>31</sup>Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." <sup>32</sup>(This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

<sup>33</sup>Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" <sup>35</sup>Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" <sup>36</sup>Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." <sup>37</sup>Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." <sup>38</sup>Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him. <sup>39</sup>But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" <sup>40</sup>They shouted in reply, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a bandit.

## **Chapter 19**

<sup>1</sup>Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. <sup>2</sup>And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. <sup>3</sup>They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. <sup>4</sup>Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." <sup>5</sup>So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" <sup>6</sup>When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." <sup>7</sup>The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought

to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

<sup>8</sup>Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. <sup>9</sup>He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup>Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?" <sup>11</sup>Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." <sup>12</sup>From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor."

<sup>13</sup>When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. <sup>14</sup>Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" <sup>15</sup>They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor." <sup>16</sup>Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus; <sup>17</sup>and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. <sup>18</sup>There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. <sup>19</sup>Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." <sup>20</sup>Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. <sup>21</sup>Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, '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 clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. <sup>24</sup>So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots." <sup>25</sup> And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near 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 beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

<sup>28</sup>After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." <sup>29</sup>A 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. <sup>30</sup>When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

### **Silence is maintained for a moment**

<sup>31</sup>Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the Sabbath, especially because that Sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. <sup>32</sup>Then 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>Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. <sup>35</sup>He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) <sup>36</sup>These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." <sup>37</sup>And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

<sup>38</sup>After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. <sup>39</sup>Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. <sup>40</sup>They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. <sup>41</sup>Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. <sup>42</sup>And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

**\*Offering Hymn**

**“Create in me...”**

*Music LBW Page 63*

**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.**

*The assembly kneels or remains seated.*

**Prayer of Preparation (Bidding Prayer)**

**P** Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world.

[Silent prayer.](#)

**P** Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. By your Holy Spirit guide the church and gather it throughout the world. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C Amen**

**A/P** Let us pray for all our pastors, for all servants of the church, and for all the people of God.

[Silent prayer.](#)

**A/P** Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our leaders, pastors, other ministers, and lay leaders. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church, and help each of us in our various vocations to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C Amen**

**P** Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.

[Silent prayer.](#)

**P** Almighty and eternal God, you continue to bless the church. Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing † for baptism. Give them new birth as your children, and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C Amen**

**A/P** Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

[Silent prayer.](#)

**A/P** Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith, and keep us united in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C Amen**

**P** Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God.

[Silent prayer.](#)

**P** Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses. Hear our prayers that the people you called and elected as your own may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C Amen**

**A/P** Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ.

[Silent prayer.](#)

**A/P** Almighty and eternal God, gather into your embrace all those who call out to you under different names. Bring an end to inter-religious strife, and make us more faithful witnesses of the love made known to us in your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C Amen**

**P** Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.

[Silent prayer.](#)

**P** Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all may long to know you and find peace in you. Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace in the world and in God. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C Amen**

**A/P** Let us pray for God's creation.

[Silent prayer.](#)

**A/P** Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe. Hold all the world in the arms of your care and bring all things to fulfillment in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C Amen**

**P** Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

[Silent prayer.](#)

**P** Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority, so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C Amen**

**P** Let us pray for those in need.

[Silent prayer.](#)

**P** Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C Amen**

### **The Office of Tenebrae (The Last 7 Words)**

**The First Word:** *"Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."*

*Luke 23:34-38*

#### **Silent Meditation**

<sup>NRS</sup> Luke 23:33 When 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. <sup>34</sup> Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. <sup>35</sup> And 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!" <sup>36</sup> The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, <sup>37</sup> and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" <sup>38</sup> There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

Let us pray...

O Prince of Peace, you were patient in suffering and merciful when you did not receive mercy; when on the Cross you were mocked and scorned you remained pure in heart and spoke no words of bitterness. As you interceded for those who scourged and crucified you, begging for their pardon, so fill our hearts with gentleness and patience that we might love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. Amen.

The First Candle is Extinguished

**Silence**



**Reader 1-- The Second Word:** *"Today you shall be with me in Paradise"*

*Luke 23:39-43*

**Silent Meditation**

<sup>NRS</sup> Luke 23:39 One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup> But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? <sup>41</sup> And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup> Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." <sup>43</sup> He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Let us pray...

O Holy Jesus, in your infinite mercy you granted pardon to a sinner on the cross and opened for him the gate to everlasting life. Look with your compassionate eyes on all those who receive your love, but resist giving you their allegiance and devotion. By your grace and our untiring witness, hasten the day when all people, drawn to you by your Cross, will hallow your name, call you Lord and Master and share in the joy of your Kingdom. Amen.

The Second Candle is Extinguished

**Silence**

**The Third Word:** *"Woman, behold thy son! Behold thy mother!"*

*John 19: 25-27*

**Silent Meditation**

<sup>NRS</sup> John 19:25 And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near 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 beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Let us pray...

O Son of God most holy, when your hour had come, your agony on the cross pierced the heart of your mother as she watched helplessly and felt your pain. As you showed love for her, even in your distress, by entrusting her to the care of your beloved disciple John, so look in tender pity upon all parents whose hearts are torn by the death of their children. Reconcile the hearts of parents and children who have disowned each other. Provide a place within the embrace of your outstretched arms for all abused children and all neglected, aged parents. Amen.

The Third Candle is Extinguished

**Silence**

**Reader 2-- The Fourth Word:** *"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"*

*Mark 15:34-39*

**Silent Meditation**

<sup>NRS</sup> Mark 15:34 At 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?" <sup>35</sup> When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." <sup>36</sup> And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." <sup>37</sup> Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. <sup>38</sup> And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. <sup>39</sup> Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

Let us pray...

Dearest Jesus, true and only begotten Son of the Father, faithful even in the hour of death; when all earthly security – home, friends and even clothing – was stripped from you on the Cross, you cried out for that which alone can sustain in every loss, the presence of the Father in heaven. Assure us that by living in you there is nothing in life and nothing in death that can separate us from the same Love. Assure us that such Love will not forsake the world for which you died. Give us love for the world, that we would nurture the health of all living things on earth, and live without regard for national boundaries as people whose only hope is to acknowledge that we are brothers and sisters bound to each other in the family of God, who forsakes nothing that He has made. Amen



The Fourth Candle is Extinguished

**Silence**

The Fifth Word:

*"I thirst."*

*John 18:28-29*

**Silent Meditation**

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

Let us pray...

Faithful Lord Jesus, you chose the path which led to pain before joy, and the Cross before Glory. In your thirst on the Cross you remind us of the parched lips on the faces of the least of your brothers and sisters among us who hunger and thirst each morning for daily bread. Remind us that it is your image that we see in their faces, drawn by hunger and thirst of body and spirit. Move us from our security in things to security in you, that from our abundance we would share with them a cup of cold water, and thereby quench your thirst on the Cross. Then would the world believe us when we proclaim that you are the Living Water – and whoever drinks of this water will never thirst. Amen.

The Fifth Candle is Extinguished

**Silence**

Reader 3-- The Sixth Word:

*"It is finished."*

*John 19:30-34*

**Silent Meditation**

<sup>NRS</sup> John 19:30 When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. <sup>31</sup> Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So, they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. <sup>32</sup> Then 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> Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out.

Let us pray...

Holy Jesus, you are the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, the Author and the Finisher of our faith. Finish, we pray, the new creation begun in you. Show us always your completed work of salvation on the Cross. Make your sacrifice complete before our eyes, that in perfect faith we may cling to you – our only hope in life, our only stay in death. As you were lifted upon the cross, draw all the people of the world to you that as they share in the creation of your Father's hand, they may also share in the new creation – the triumphant joy of finishing life in true faith. Amen.

The Sixth Candle is Extinguished

**Silence**

The Seventh Word:

*"Father, into Your hand I commend my Spirit!"*

*Luke 23:46-53*

**Silent Meditation**

<sup>NRS</sup> Luke 23:44 It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, <sup>45</sup> while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup> Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. <sup>47</sup> When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." <sup>48</sup> And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. <sup>49</sup> But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things. <sup>50</sup> Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, <sup>51</sup> had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. <sup>52</sup> This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. <sup>53</sup> Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid.

Let us pray...

Holy Jesus, Judge of all creation, seated at the right hand of Power, you live and by your grace continually make intercession for us. You have taken the sting from death, and robbed the grave of its victory. Teach us through your dying words to commend our lives daily to our heavenly Father's care. Protect us by your grace that all our thoughts, words and actions may spring forth from lives commended to you; live in us that we may live in you. Call to mind daily our baptism into your death and into your resurrection. Strengthen us by your grace that we may live all our days aware of your presence and continual help. Be near us now and at the hour of our death, that commended to you we may taste the fruit of your glorious triumph, and come to the peace and joy that you have prepared for those who love you. Amen.

The Seventh Candle is Extinguished

**Silence**

**Hymn**

*"Were You There"*

**LBW p. 92**

*(Altar Candles Are Extinguished)*

- 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 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?
- 4 Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?  
Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?



Text: African American spiritual

**\*The Lord's Prayer**

**P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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**

**Closing of the Bible**

**Silent Recessional / Leave**

**There will be NO internet sharing to end this service.**  
**We ask all to depart from this worship in complete silence.**