

**A SERVICE OF MEDITATION ON THE SEVEN WORDS
OF CHRIST FROM THE CROSS**

Good Friday, April 15, 2022 – 7:00 pm

Organist: Ruth Greening



A Prayer to Prepare Your Hearts for Worship

Merciful and everlasting God, You did not spare Your own dear Son, but delivered Him up for us all, that He might bear our sins upon the cross. Grant that our hearts may be so filled with steadfast faith in Him that we may not fear the power of any adversaries. In His Name. Amen.

The Opening Prayer (spoken by all)

Lord Jesus, You carried our sins in Your body on the tree so that we might have life. Be with us as we meditate today on Your final hours on the cross, and the words You spoke there. As we come to the foot of Your cross, lead us to see how terribly great our sins are – only God’s own Son could pay our debt – but also give us each the joy and comfort that comes with the realization that in love You willingly went through all this for us – that we might have forgiveness and life eternal through a confident trust in Your living and dying in our stead. In Your saving Name we pray. Amen.

Hymn 448 (1-2)

O Darkest Woe

Scripture Reading

(A compilation of the following passages: Lamentations 1:12, Isaiah 53:3-6, Galatians 3:13, Romans 8:32, John 1:29, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Revelation 5:13)

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Behold and see if there is any sorrow like His sorrow. | He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. | Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us. | Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised *for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.* | *God did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all.* | *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.* | *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.* | *Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! | Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!*

MEDITATIONS ON THE SEVEN WORDS OF CHRIST FROM THE CROSS

The congregation is asked to remain seated and encouraged to meditate personally on these words of our Savior Jesus Christ.

I. Forgiveness at the Cross

Luke 23:33-34

*And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. Then Jesus said, **“FATHER, FORGIVE THEM, FOR THEY DO NOT KNOW WHAT THEY DO.”***

Meditation on the Word

Hymn 447 (1-3)

Jesus, In Your Dying Woes



II. Salvation on the Cross

Luke 23:39-43

*Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, “If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us.” But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, “Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said to Jesus, “Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.” And Jesus said to him, **“ASSUREDLY, I SAY TO YOU, TODAY YOU WILL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE.”***

Meditation on the Word

Hymn 447 (4-6)

Jesus, Pitying the Sighs



III. Remembrance at the Cross

John 19:25-27

*Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, **“WOMAN, BEHOLD YOUR SON!”** Then He said to the disciple, **“BEHOLD YOUR MOTHER!”** And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.*

Meditation on the Word

Hymn 447 (7-9)

Jesus, Loving To The End



IV. Anguish of Soul at the Cross

Matthew 27:45-47

*Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “**ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?**” that is, “**MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?**” Some of those who stood there, when they heard that, said, “This Man is calling for Elijah!”*

Meditation on the Word

Hymn 447 (10-12)

Jesus, Whelmed in Fears Unknown

† † †

V. Suffering at the Cross

John 19:28-29

*After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, “**I THIRST!**” Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth.*

Meditation on the Word

Hymn 447 (13-15)

Jesus, In Your Thirst And Pain

† † †

VI. Victory at the Cross

John 19:30

*So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “**IT IS FINISHED!**” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.*

Meditation on the Word

Hymn 447 (16-18)

Jesus, All Our Ransom Paid

† † †

VII. Confidence on the Cross

Luke 23:44-46

*Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two. And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, “**FATHER, ‘INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT.’**” Having said this, He breathed His last.*

Meditation on the Word

Hymn 425

When I Survey The Wondrous Cross

Responsive Scripture Reading – “Chapter 3:16”
*(passages from John, 1 Corinthians, Ephesians, Colossians,
2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, 1 John)*

- P All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof:
C **For correction, for instruction in righteousness.** 2 Timothy 3:16
- P Without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles:
C **Believed on in the world, received up in glory.** 1 Timothy 3:16
- P For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son:
C **That whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.** John 3:16
- P By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us:
C **And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.** 1 John 3:16
- P Do you not know that you are the temple of God:
C **And that the Spirit of God dwells in you?** 1 Corinthians 3:16
- P May God grant you, according to the riches of His glory:
C **To be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man.** Ephesians 3:16
- P Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs:
C **Singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.** Colossians 3:16

Benediction

- P Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord be with you all. 2 Thessalonians 3:16
C (says) Amen.



Offerings may be left in the collection plate stationed in back of the church. There will be no collection during the service.

All are invited to join with us again for our celebration of Christ’s resurrection on Easter Sunday at 9:30 am

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
2470 Wadsworth Blvd., Lakewood, CO 80214
www.denverlutheran.com
Thomas Schuetze, pastor – (303) 428-5524

The Passion History – Chapter 7 (For Private Reading at Home Tomorrow)

Three Dark Hours

It was about twelve o'clock when darkness came over the whole country, because the sun stopped shining, and the darkness lasted till three in the afternoon.

About three o'clock Jesus called out loud, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which means, "My God, My God, why did You forsake Me?"

Hearing Him, some of those standing near said, "Listen! He's calling Elijah."

After this, knowing everything had now been done, and to have the words of the Bible come true, Jesus said, "I am thirsty."

A jar full of sour wine was standing there. And immediately one of the men ran, took a sponge, soaked it in sour wine, put it on a stick of hyssop, held it to His mouth, and gave Him a drink. "Let's see," he and the others said, "if Elijah comes to save Him and take Him down."

When Jesus had taken the wine, He said, "It is finished."

Jesus Dies

But Jesus called out loud again, "Father, into Your hands I entrust My spirit." After He said this, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

Just then the curtain in the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, the earth was shaken, the rocks were split, the graves were opened, and many bodies of the holy people asleep in death were brought back to life; they came out of the graves and after He rose went into the holy city, where many saw them.

When the captain who stood facing Jesus saw how He gave up His spirit, he praised God. "This Man certainly was righteous," he said. And when he and those watching Jesus with him saw the earthquake and the other things happening, they were terrified. "He certainly was the Son of God!" they said.

When all the people who had come there to see this saw what happened, they beat their breasts and turned back.

All His friends, including many women, were standing at a distance and watching. Among

them were Mary from Magdala and Mary, the mother of James the Less and of Joseph, and Salome, the mother of Zebedee's sons. While He was in Galilee, they had followed Him and helped Him. And from Galilee they followed Jesus to help Him and came up to Jerusalem with Him.

No Bone Broken

Since it was Friday and the Jews didn't want the bodies to stay on the crosses on Saturday, because that Sabbath was an important day, they asked Pilate to have the legs of the men broken and the bodies taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man and then of the other who had been crucified with Him.

When they came to Jesus and saw He was dead already, they didn't break His legs, but one of the soldiers stuck a spear into His side, and immediately blood and water came out. He who saw it has testified about it, and his testimony is true, and he knows he is telling the truth so that you too will believe.

In this way what the Bible said had to come true: "None of His bones will be broken." And it says in another place, "They will look at Him whom they pierced."

Jesus Is Buried

There was a man by the name of Joseph, an important member of the Jewish court, a good and righteous man who had not voted for their plan an action. He was from Arimathea, a Jewish town, and was looking forward to God's kingdom. He had also become a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he was afraid of the Jews.

In the evening, since it was the day of preparation, that is, Friday, Joseph dared to go to Pilate and ask him to let him take Jesus' body away.

Pilate was surprised He was already dead. He called the captain and asked him, "Has He died already?" When the captain told him, Pilate ordered the body given to Joseph.

Joseph bought some linen and came and took Jesus' body down. Then came also Nicodemus, who had first come to Jesus at night. He brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-two pounds. They took Jesus' body and wrapped it with the spices in some clean linen according to the Jewish custom of burying the dead.

There was a garden at the place where Jesus was crucified, and in the garden was Joseph's own unused grave that he had cut in the rock, in which no one had yet been laid. Here, then – because it was Friday (when the Jews got ready for the Sabbath) and the day of rest was just starting and the grave was near – they laid Jesus.

The women who had come with Him from Galilee followed close behind. Mary from Magdala and the other Mary, the mother of Joses, were there. Sitting opposite the grave, they watched where and how His body was laid. After rolling a big stone against the door of the grave, Joseph went away. Then the women went back and prepared spices and perfumes. But on Saturday they rested according to the commandment.

The Guard

The next day – the Saturday after the day of preparation – the ruling priests and Pharisees met with Pilate. “Sir,” they said, “we remember how that deceiver said while He was still alive, ‘On the third day I will rise.’ Now, order the grave to be made secure till the third day, or His disciples may come and steal Him and tell the people, ‘He rose from the dead.’ Then the last deception will be worse than the first.”

“Take a guard,” Pilate told them. “Go and make it as secure as you know how.”

So they went and secured the grave by sealing the stone and setting the guard. ◆

† † †



*For He was cut off from the land of the living;
For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.
They made His grave with the wicked— but with the rich at His death,
Because He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth.
Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief.
When You make His soul an offering for sin,
He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days,
And the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand.
He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied.
By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many,
For He shall bear their iniquities. —Isaiah 53:8-11*