GOOD FRIDAY 2023

GOD PROVIDES THE PERFECT SACRIFICE

Good Friday: A Service of the Seven Words of the Cross

Worshipers gather in silence.

A bell is tolled seven times to begin the service.

The ministers enter in silence.

Hymn

422 A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth

A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth,
our guilt and evil bearing
and, laden with the sins of earth,
none else the burden sharing,
goes patient on, grows weak and faint,
to slaughter led without complaint,
that spotless life to offer;
bears shame and stripes and wounds and death,
anguish and mockery and saith,
"Willing all this I suffer."

This Lamb is Christ, the soul's great friend,
the Lamb of God, our Savior;
him God the Father chose to send
to gain for us his favor.
"Go forth, my Son," the Father said,
"and free my children from their dread
of guilt and condemnation.
The wrath and stripes are hard to bear,
but by your passion they will share
the fruit of your salvation."

"Yes, Father, yes, most willingly
I'll bear what you command me.
My will conforms to your decree;
I'll do what you have asked me."
O wondrous Love, what have you done!
The Father offers up his Son,
desiring our salvation.
O Love, how strong you are to save!
You make his bed within the grave
who built the earth's foundation.

From morn till eve, in all I do,
I'll praise you, Christ, my treasure.
To sacrifice myself for you
shall be my aim and pleasure.
My stream of life shall ever be
a current flowing ceaselessly,
your constant praise outpouring.
I'll treasure in my memory,
O Lord, all you have done for me,
your gracious love adoring.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, abr.; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941, alt.; © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719903

Stand

Responsive Reading

Isaiah 52:13—53:12

13 Look, my servant will succeed. He will rise. He will be lifted up. He will be highly exalted.
14 Just as many were appalled at him—
his appearance was so disfigured that he did not look like a man,
and his form was disfigured more than any other person—
15 so he will sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of him,
because they will see something they had never been told before,
and they will understand something they had never heard before.

1 Who has believed our report, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
2 **He grew up before him like a tender shoot**
and like a root from dry ground.
He had no attractiveness and no majesty.
When we saw him, nothing about his appearance made us desire him.

3 He was despised and rejected by men,
a man who knew grief, who was well acquainted with suffering.
Like someone whom people cannot bear to look at,
he was despised, and we thought nothing of him.

4 Surely he was taking up our weaknesses, and he was carrying our sufferings.
We thought it was because of God that he was stricken, smitten, and afflicted,
5 but it was because of our rebellion that he was pierced.
He was crushed for the guilt our sins deserved.
The punishment that brought us peace was upon him,
and by his wounds we are healed.
6 **We all have gone astray like sheep.**
Each of us has turned to his own way,
but the Lord has charged all our guilt to him.

7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth.
Like a lamb he was led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that is silent in front of its shearers, he did not open his mouth.
8 He was taken away without a fair trial and without justice,
and of his generation, who even cared?
So, he was cut off from the land of the living.
He was struck because of the rebellion of my people.
9 They would have assigned him a grave with the wicked,
but he was given a grave with the rich in his death,
because he had done no violence, and no deceit was in his mouth.
10 **Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him**
and to allow him to suffer.
Because you made his life a guilt offering, he will see offspring.
He will prolong his days, and the Lord's gracious plan will succeed in his hand.
11 After his soul experiences anguish, he will see the light of life.
He will provide satisfaction.
Through their knowledge of him, my just servant will justify the many,
for he himself carried their guilt.
12 Therefore I will give him an allotment among the great,
and with the strong he will share plunder,
because he poured out his life to death,
and he let himself be counted with rebellious sinners.
He himself carried the sin of many,
and he intercedes for the rebels. (EHV©)

Be seated

Sermonette

based on Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest, who has gone through the heavens, namely, Jesus the Son of God, let us continue to hold on to our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet was without sin. 16 So let us approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

7 In the days of his flesh, he offered prayers and pleas with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. 8 Although he was the Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered. 9 After he was brought to his goal, he became the source of eternal salvation for everyone who obeys him.

Anthem

12:10 – School Students – If It Had Not Been For the Lord
6:00 – Adult Choir – I'm Thirsty

The First Word

Luke 23:32–34

32 Two other men, who were criminals, were led away with Jesus to be executed. 33 When they
came to the place called The Skull, they crucified him there with the criminals, one on his
right and the other on his left. 34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what
they are doing." They cast lots to divide his garments among them.

A candle is extinguished. Silence for meditation.

Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me;
They pierce my hands and my feet. *Psalm 22:16*

They divide my garments among them
and cast lots for my clothing. *Psalm 22:18*

He bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors. *Isaiah 53:12*

Gracious Savior, you did not strike back with revenge against your enemies as they ridiculed and crucified you but prayed for their forgiveness. In your compassion, pardon us for our secret sins and sins we do not discern, and enlighten us to know and do your will.
Amen.

Hymn verse

436 The Seven Words st. 1

Their nails were freshly driven, their hatred clearly shown,
when, "Let them be forgiven," was heard at heaven's throne.
Your enemies, O Jesus, you loved beyond degree,
a love so pure and precious it even pardoned me.

Text: Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963. © 2021 Michael D. Schultz, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719903

The Second Word

Luke 23:35–43

35 The people stood watching. The rulers were ridiculing him, saying, "He saved others. Let him
save himself, if this is the Christ of God, the Chosen One!" 36 The soldiers also made fun of him.
Coming up to him, they offered him sour wine, 37 saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save
yourself!" 38 There was also an inscription written above him: "This is the King of the Jews."

39 One of the criminals hanging there was blaspheming him, saying, "Aren't you the Christ?
Save yourself and us!" 40 But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God, since you
are under the same condemnation? 41 We are punished justly, for we are receiving what we
deserve for what we have done, but this man has done nothing wrong."

42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." 43 Jesus said to him,
"Amen I tell you: Today you will be with me in paradise."

A candle is extinguished. Silence for meditation.

All who see me mock me;
They hurl insults, shaking their heads. *Psalm 22:7*

"He trusts in the Lord," they say, "let the Lord rescue him.
Let him deliver him, since he delights in him." *Psalm 22:8*

Remember me, Lord, when you show favor to your people.
Come to my aid when you save them. *Psalm 106:4*

Mighty Redeemer, remember us as we walk through the darkest valleys of life and realize that our time on earth is ending. Stay close to us when we feel the pain and loneliness of dying and take away our fears with your certain promise of paradise.
Amen.

Hymn verse

436 The Seven Words st. 2

On you, my King, depending, I'm rid of all my sins!
My final day here ending, my first in heav'n begins.
As you have truly spoken, in paradise I'll be,
with you in bliss unbroken—you will remember me.

Text: Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963. © 2021 Michael D. Schultz, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719903

The Third Word

John 19:25–27

25 Jesus' mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene were standing near the cross.

26 When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son!" 27 Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother!" And from that time this disciple took her into his own home.

A candle is extinguished. Silence for meditation.

This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel,
and to be a sign that will be spoken against, *Luke 2:34*

so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed.
And a sword will pierce your own soul too. *Luke 2:35*

Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?
Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven
is my brother and sister and mother. *Matthew 12:48,50*

Precious Jesus, you consider us friends and care about the needs of our bodies and souls. Keep us in your care as we walk the road of life and provide the blessings we need to gain safety, contentment, and joy in your service.
Amen.

Hymn verse

436 The Seven Words st. 3

A Savior like no other, all self-concern denied,
you served your grieving mother while you were crucified.
My sin had made me filthy, but you, the perfect child,
were designated guilty, and I am reconciled.

Text: Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963. © 2021 Michael D. Schultz, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719903

The Fourth Word

Matthew 27:45, 46

45 From the sixth hour until the ninth hour, there was darkness over all the land. 46 About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, *"Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?"* which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

A candle is extinguished. Silence for meditation.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish? *Psalm 22:1*

My God, I cry out by day but you do not answer,
by night, but I find no rest. *Psalm 22:2*

"In that day," declares the Sovereign Lord, "I will make the sun go down at noon
and darken the earth in broad daylight." *Amos 8:9*

Lord Jesus, you endured the horrific penalty of our sins as your Father turned his face from you on the cross. Compel us to see in your sacrifice the dreadful nature of sin and call us to acknowledge the amazing depth of your love. Overcome our shame, dear Savior, and give us grateful faith.
Amen.

Hymn verse

436 The Seven Words st. 4

Condemned, cut off, forsaken, outside the Father's care,
by terror overtaken, no ear would hear your prayer.
On you God's wrath was vented, on you his fury fell,
when, on the cross tormented, you took my place in hell.

Text: Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963. © 2021 Michael D. Schultz, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719903

Fifth Word *John 19:28, 29*

[28] After this, knowing that everything had now been finished, and to fulfill the Scripture, Jesus said, "I thirst."

[29] A jar full of sour wine was sitting there. So they put a sponge soaked in sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth.

A candle is extinguished. Silence for meditation.

My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
you lay me in the dust of death. *Psalm 22:15*

I am worn out calling for help;
my throat is parched. *Psalm 69:3*

They put gall in my food
and gave me vinegar for my thirst. *Psalm 69:21*

Dear Jesus, as our brother on earth you endured the agony of pain that besieged your body when your sacrifice was complete. Knowing our experiences, hover over us with your care and compassion when our bodies and hearts are hurting. Provide us with strength that we may confess you with confidence and power.
Amen.

12:10 – Adult Choir *I'm Thirsty*

6:00 – Hymn verse *436 The Seven Words st. 5*

My Lord, in death's dark valley, both soul and body drained,
one drink would help you rally what little strength remained
to raise your voice in vict'ry, to sound your foe's defeat—
the highest point in hist'ry—my rescue was complete.

Text: Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963. © 2021 Michael D. Schultz, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719903

Sixth Word *John 19:30*

[30] When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished!" Then, bowing his head, he gave up his spirit.

A candle is extinguished. Silence for meditation.

On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem,
to cleanse them from sin and impurity. *Zechariah 13:1*

Because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit. *Zechariah 9:11*

I will remove the sin of this land in a single day. *Zechariah 3:9*
I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more. *Zechariah 31:34*

Gracious Redeemer, you paid the full price for our redemption and have released us forever from the hold of Satan, the power of sin, and the fear of death. Protect us from the devil's claim that we need to do more and from the accusation of our consciences that we have not done enough. Lead us to place our confidence in you and to live our lives secure in your grace.
Amen.

Hymn verse

436 The Seven Words st. 6

Though sin's most lethal wages to me, O Christ, were due,
the guilt of all the ages came crashing down on you.
Most surely, "It is finished"— my debt is fully paid;
my joy is undiminished; my heart is unafraid.

Text: Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963. © 2021 Michael D. Schultz, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719903

Seventh Word

Luke 23:44–46

44 It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth
hour, 45 while the sun was darkened. Then the curtain of the temple was torn in two.

46 Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" When he had said this, he breathed his last.

A candle is extinguished. Silence for meditation.

Into your hands I commit my spirit;
deliver me, Lord, my faithful God. *Psalm 31:5*

He has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one;
he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help. *Psalm 22:24*

He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors.
He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. *Isaiah 53:12*

Loving Savior, at the moment of your death you gave yourself into the loving hands of your Father. As we close our eyes in death, lead us to commit our bodies and souls to him who has summoned us by name and made us his own because of you and your love. Then, we pray, let us depart in peace.
Amen.

Hymn verse

436 The Seven Words st. 7

My death will be triumphant no matter how I die;
Lord Jesus, in that instant escort my soul on high
into my Father's keeping, all-blameless and all-blest,
like waking up from sleeping, his hands my place of rest.

Text: Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963. © 2021 Michael D. Schultz, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719903

Stand

Reading

John 19:31–42

31 Since it was the Preparation Day, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses over
the Sabbath (because that Sabbath was a particularly important day). They asked Pilate to
have the men's legs broken and the bodies taken away. 32 So the soldiers came and broke the
legs of the first man who was crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other man.

33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his
legs. 34 Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear. Immediately blood and water
came out. 35 The one who saw it has testified, and his testimony is true. He knows that he is
telling the truth, so that you also may believe. 36 Indeed, these things happened so that the
Scripture would be fulfilled, "Not one of his bones will be broken." 37 Again another Scripture
says, "They will look at the one they pierced."

38 After this, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews,
asked Pilate to let him remove Jesus' body. When Pilate gave him permission, he came and
took Jesus' body away. 39 Nicodemus, who earlier had come to Jesus at night, also came
bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-two pounds.

40 They took Jesus' body and bound it with linen strips along with the spices, in accord with
Jewish burial customs. 41 There was a garden at the place where Jesus was crucified. And in the
garden was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. 42 So they laid Jesus there, because
it was the Jewish Preparation Day, and the tomb was near.

Be seated

12:10 – Anthem

The Burial

6:00 – Hymn

423 The Power of the Cross

Please join beginning with the second verse.

Prayer of the Day

God Most Holy, look with mercy on this, your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, be given over into the hands of the wicked, and suffer death upon the cross. Keep us always faithful to him, our only Savior, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

The relighting of a single candle foreshadows Christ's return to life.

Hymn

405 On My Heart Imprint Your Image

Following the hymn, the congregation will be dismissed by the ushers from the back to the front.

However, you are welcome to remain in solemn meditation and prayer as long as you would like.

When you leave, please observe silence, keeping visiting and noise to a minimum.

Connect cards and offerings can be placed in the Welcome Table slots as you leave.

We look forward to returning to worship with joy on Easter Sunday at 7:00 and 9:30

Acknowledgments

A Service of the Seven Words from the Cross from Christian Worship. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.

www.stpaulswr.org

311 14th Ave S | Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495 | 715-421-3634 | churchoffice@stpaulswr.org
Pastor Lucas Proeber | 989-780-3184 | pastorproeber@stpaulswr.org
Pastor Peter Plagenz | 920-689-3036 | pastorplagenz@stpaulswr.org