

Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart,

All you who hope in the Lord.

Prayer on the Seventh Word from the Cross

Father, into whose hands your Son Jesus Christ commended His spirit, grant that we too, following His example, may in all of life commend ourselves into Your Fatherly care, believing that You are a faithful Creator and Father. Grant that when the moment of our death arrives, we will entrust our lives into Your faithful hands of love, knowing that our Lord has prepared a place for us in Your house. In the name of Jesus who gave His life for us all.

O Lord, hear our prayer.

Hymn: "Stricken, Smitten and Afflicted"

"And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit."
(John 19:30b)

[Extinguish the seventh candle]

Darkness

Tolling of the Bell

Promise of the Resurrection

John 2:18-21

So the Jews answered and said to Him, "What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" But He was speaking of the temple of His body.

Blessed be the Word of the Lord.

Resurrection Candle Unveiled

Hymn: "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

Let Us Pray:

Almighty God, look with mercy on Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and given over to the hands of sinners and to suffer death on the cross; Who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

May Jesus Christ, who for our sakes became obedient unto death, even death on a cross, keep you and strengthen you.



Good Friday Tenebrae Service

April 2, 2010

Tenebrae: Latin for "shadows" or "darkness"

Call to Worship [John 3:16; Heb. 4:14-16]

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

Amen

The Lord be with you

And with your spirit

Blessed be the name of the Lord our God

Who redeems us from sin and death

For us and for our salvation, Christ became obedient unto death

Even death on a cross

In God have I put my trust

I will not be afraid of what man can do to me

Yea, in the shadow of Thy wings I will make my refuge

Until these calamities be past

Be merciful unto me, O God
For my soul trusts in Thee

Blessed be the name of the Lord!
Amen!

Collect

Almighty God, we pray that You would graciously behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

PSALM: Psalm 51:1-8

The Solemn Reproaches of the Cross

O my people, O my church, what have I done to you, or in what have I offended you? Answer me. I led you forth from the land of Egypt and delivered you by the waters of baptism, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy on us.

I led you through the desert forty years, and fed you with manna: I brought you through tribulation and temptation, and gave you My body, the bread of heaven, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy.

What more could I have done for you that I have not done? I planted you, My chosen and fairest vineyard, I made you the branches of My vine: but when I was thirsty, you gave Me vinegar to drink and pierced with a spear the side of your Savior, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

O Lord, forgive us our sin.

I went before you in a pillar of cloud, and you have led Me to the judgment hall of Pilate. I scourged your enemies and brought you to a land of freedom, but you have scourged, mocked, and beaten Me. I gave you the water of salvation from the rock, but you have given Me gall and left me to thirst, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord.

I gave you a royal scepter, and bestowed the keys to the kingdom, but you have given Me a crown of thorns. I raised you on high with great power, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy.

I sent the Spirit of truth to guide you, and you close your hearts to the Counselor. I pray that all may be one in the Father and Me, but you continue to quarrel and divide. I call you to go and bring forth fruit, but you cast lots for My clothing, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, forgive us our sins.

I came to you as the least of your brothers and sisters; I was hungry and you gave Me no food, I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome Me, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, God of love, have mercy upon us

We Make General Confession of Our Sins

Let Us Pray

O Savior of the world, who by Your cross and precious blood has redeemed us: Save us and help us, we humbly ask you, O Lord. Forbid, O God, that we should forget, amid our earthly comforts, the pains and mortal anguish that our Lord Jesus endured for our salvation. Grant us this day a true vision of all that He suffered, in His betrayal, His lonely agony, His false trial, His mocking and scourging, and the torture of death upon the cross. As you have graciously given Yourself utterly for us, may we give ourselves entirely to You, O Jesus Christ, our only Lord and Savior. AMEN.

Assurance of Forgiveness from Isaiah

Surely He has borne our grief, and carried our sorrows:

Yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

But He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities

The chastisement of our peace was upon Him
and with His stripes we are healed.

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.

Litany of Remembrance & Thanksgiving

Let us remember, and give thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ: Who, though rich, became poor and dwelt among us, Who was mighty indeed, healing the sick and the troubled, Who, as a teacher to His disciples, was their Friend and Servant.

We thank you Lord Jesus for what You have done for us.

Let us remember, and give thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ: Who prayed for the forgiveness of those who denied and forsook Him and for the perfecting of those who received Him, who hated sin because He loved and honored His Father, and loved those whom the Father gave Him, and gave Himself for them.

We thank you Lord Jesus for what You have done for us.

Let us remember, and give thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ: Who humbled Himself, and was obedient unto the Father through all His sufferings, even to the point of cruel death on the cross. God has exalted Him who has redeemed us from the bondage of sin and has made a New Covenant with us, to be our God and to establish us as His people, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

We thank you Lord Jesus for what You have done, and continue to do for us.

For You are My rock and My fortress;
Therefore, for Your name's sake, lead Me and guide Me.

Pull me out of the net which they have secretly laid for Me,
For You are My strength.

Into Your hand I commit My spirit;
You have redeemed Me, O Lord God of truth.

I have hated those who regard useless idols;
But I trust in the Lord.

I will be glad
And rejoice in Your mercy,

For you have considered My trouble;
You have known My soul in adversities,

And have not shut Me up into the hand of the enemy;
You have set My feet in a wide place.

Have mercy on Me, O Lord,
For I am in trouble;

My eye wastes away with grief,
Yes, My soul and My body!

For My life is spent with grief,
And My years with sighing;

My strength fails because of My iniquity,
And my bones waste away.

I am a reproach among all my enemies,
But especially among My neighbors,

And am repulsive to My acquaintances;
Those who see Me outside flee from Me.

I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind;
I am like a broken vessel.

For I hear the slander of many;
Fear is on every side;

While they take counsel together against Me,
They scheme to take away My life.

But as for Me, I trust in you, O Lord;
I say, "You are My God."

My times are in Your hand; deliver Me from the hand of My enemies,
And from those who persecute Me.

Make your face shine upon Your servant;
Save Me for Your mercies' sake.

Do not let Me be ashamed, O Lord,
For I have called upon You;

Let the wicked be ashamed;
Let them be silent in the grave.

Let the lying lips be put to silence,
Which speak insolent things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous.

Oh, how great is Your goodness,
Which You have laid up for those who fear You,

Which You have prepared for those who trust in You
In the presence of the sons of men!

You shall hide them in the secret place of Your presence
From the plots of man;

You shall keep them secretly in a pavilion
From the strife of tongues.

Blessed be the Lord,
For He has shown Me His marvelous kindness in a strong city!

For I said in My haste,
"I am cut off from before your eyes";

Nevertheless You heard the voice of My supplications
When I cried out to you.

Oh, love the Lord,
All you His saints!

For the Lord preserves the faithful,
And fully repays the proud person.

Surely you shall call a nation you do not know,
And nations who do not know you shall run to you,

Because of the Lord your God, and the Holy One of Israel;
For He has glorified you.”

Prayer on the Fifth Word from the Cross

O blessed Savior, Whose lips were dry and Whose throat was parched, grant us Your water of life that we who thirst after righteousness may find it quenched by Your grace, love, and mercy. Bring this same relief to all others who also hunger and thirst for Your righteousness. Fulfill Your promise of the Spirit to all who believe in You, so that out of our inmost being may flow rivers of living water, for the healing and refreshment of all the world. For Jesus' sake we pray.

O Lord, hear our prayer.

Hymn: “Alas and Did My Savior Bleed?”

[Extinguish the fifth candle]

The Sixth Word

“It is finished” (John 19:30)

Luke 13:31-35

On that very day some Pharisees came, saying to Him, “Get out and depart from here, **for Herod wants to kill You.”**

And He said to them, “Go, tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, **and the third day I shall be perfected.’**”

Nevertheless I must journey today, tomorrow, and the day following;
for it cannot be that a prophet should perish outside of Jerusalem.

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets
and stones those who are sent to her!

How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings,
but you were not willing!

See! Your house is left to you desolate; and assuredly, I say to you,
you shall not see Me until the time comes when you say,

‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’

Prayer on the Sixth Word from the Cross

O Lord Jesus Christ, who finished the Father's work that You were sent to do, enable us by Your Holy Spirit to be faithful to Your call, and to complete the work You have for us, who are Your workmanship and whom You created for good works. Grant us strength to bear our crosses and endure our sufferings, even unto death, that we might be glorified with You also. Enable us to live and love so faithfully that we also might become a testimony to the world, joining Your witness O Lord Jesus, in whose name we pray.

O Lord, hear our prayer.

Hymn: “Man of Sorrows! What a Name”

[Extinguish the sixth candle]

The Seventh Word

“Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit” (Luke 23:46)

Psalm 31

In you, O Lord,
I put my trust;

Let Me never be ashamed;
Deliver Me in Your righteousness.

Bow down Your ear to Me,
Deliver Me speedily;

Be My rock of refuge,
A fortress of defense to save Me.

The First Word

“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34)

Psalm 51

Have mercy upon me, O God,
According to Your lovingkindness;

According to the multitude of Your tender mercies,
Blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
And cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my transgressions,
And my sin is always before me.

Against you, you only, have I sinned,
And done this evil in your sight

That You may be found just when You speak,
And blameless when you judge.

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
And in sin my mother conceived me.

Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts,
And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me to hear joy and gladness,
That the bones you have broken may rejoice.

Hide Your face from my sins,
And blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from Your presence,
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.

Then will I teach transgressors your ways,
And sinners shall be converted to you.

Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, the God of my salvation,
And my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness

Prayer on the First Word from the Cross

Almighty God, to whom Your crucified Son prayed for the forgiveness of those who did not know what they were doing by crucifying Him, grant that we, too, may be included in that prayer. We also sin against You both willfully and foolishly. Whether we sin out of ignorance or intention, omission or commission, be merciful to us and grant us Your acceptance and peace: in the name of Jesus Christ, our suffering Savior.

O Lord, hear our prayer.

Hymn : “Were You There?”

[Extinguish the first candle]

The Second Word

And Jesus said unto him, “Verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in Paradise.” (Luke 23:43)

John 14:1-6

Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God,
believe also in Me.

In my Father's house are many mansions;
if it were not so, I would have told you.

I go to prepare a place for you.
And if I go and prepare a place for you,

I will come again
and receive you to Myself;

that where I am,
there you may be also.

And where I go you know,
and the way you know.

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going,
how can we know the way?"

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Prayer on the Second Word from the Cross

O Lord Jesus Christ, in Your agony You showed compassion to a man who confessed his sinfulness and Your holiness, and begged You for forgiveness. You answered him, and gave him the gift of life eternal. We thank You for that same indescribable gift You give to us, who confess our own depravity and Your righteousness. Grant this blessed assurance to all those who acknowledge You as Lord and Savior, that they will indeed be with You one day in Paradise. In Your holy name we pray.

O Lord, hear our prayer.

Hymn: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

[Extinguish the second candle.]

The Third Word

"Woman, behold thy son! . . . Behold thy mother!" (John 19:26-27)

Mark 3:31-35

Then His brothers and His mother came, **and standing outside they sent to Him, calling Him.**

And a multitude was sitting around Him; **and they said to Him,**

"Look, Your mother and Your brothers are outside seeking you."

But He answered them, saying, "Who is My mother, or My brothers?"

And He looked around in a circle at those who sat about Him, and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers!

"For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother."

Prayer on the Third Word from the Cross

O Blessed Savior, who in Your hours of greatest suffering and agony had compassion for Your mother and arranged for her care, grant that we who seek to follow Your example will be strong to show our concern for Your people, reaching out to provide for those who suffer need among us, and around us. For Your mercy's sake.

O Lord, hear our prayer.

Hymn : "Throned Upon the Awe-full Tree"

[Extinguish the third candle]

The Fourth Word

"My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" (Matt. 27:46)

Psalm 22:1-20

My God, My God, why have You forsaken me?

Why are You so far from helping me, and from the words of my groaning?

O My God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not hear;

And in the night season, and am not silent.

But You are holy,
Enthroned in the praises of Israel.

Our fathers trusted in You;
They trusted, and You delivered them.

They cried to You, and were delivered;
They trusted in You, and were not ashamed.

But I am a worm, and no man;
A reproach of men, and despised by the people.

All those who see me ridicule me;
They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying,

"He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him;
Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!"

But You are He who took Me out of the womb;
You made Me trust while on my mother's breasts.

I was cast upon You from birth.
From My mother's womb You have been My God.

Be not far from Me, for trouble is near;
For there is none to help.

Many bulls have surrounded Me;
Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled Me.

They gape at Me with their mouths,
Like a raging and roaring lion.

I am poured out like water,
And all My bones are out of joint;

My heart is like wax;
It has melted within Me.

My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and My tongue clings to My jaws;
You have brought Me to the dust of death.

For dogs have surrounded Me;
The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet;

I can count all My bones.
They look and stare at Me.

They divide my garments among them,
And for my clothing they cast lots.

But You, O Lord, do not be far from Me;
O My Strength, hasten to help Me!

Deliver Me from the sword,
My precious life from the power of the dog.

Prayer on the Fourth Word from the Cross

Almighty God, who forsook Your Son upon the cross in Your judgment upon our sin and guilt, grant us, upon hearing His cry, the grace to acknowledge and understand the depth of His agonies on our behalf. Grant us to know and believe, that because of His suffering and atonement, we will never be forsaken, and that He is present with us even to the end of the age. For the sake of Jesus Christ who bore our sins in His own body on the tree.

O Lord, hear our prayer.

Hymn: "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

[Extinguish the fourth candle]

The Fifth Word

"I thirst" (John 19:28)

Isaiah 55:1-5

Ho! Everyone who thirsts,
Come to the waters;

And you who have no money, come, buy and eat.

Yes, come buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Why do you spend money for what is not bread,

And your wages for what does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
And let your soul delight itself in abundance.

Incline your ear, and come to Me.
Hear, and your soul shall live;

And I will make an everlasting covenant with you
The sure mercies of David.

Indeed I have given Him as a witness to the people,

A leader and commander for the people.