



**Good Friday Service of Darkness
and Meditation upon the Words
from the Cross**

April 2, 2021

7 p.m.

Church of the Brethren Zoom Room: <http://tiny.cc/RoomV>

Call: (929)205-6099 **Meeting ID:** 329-651-499#

Please respond where the print is bold, all other parts are spoken by the worship leader.

Good Friday is a day for solemn reflection on the mystery of God's love for us. It is traditionally a day of adoration directed to Christ, who gave himself for us upon the cross. While we may mourn at the depths of his passion, we must also look ahead in hope to the promise of his resurrection. Worship this evening will focus on the final words of Jesus from the cross and the experience of the body, mind, and spirit as he was mocked, beaten and humiliated. We will share silence prior to the conclusion of the service and leave in silence.

The meditations are selections from "Echoes from Calvary: Meditations on Franz Joseph Haydn's The Seven Last Words of Christ," edited by Richard Young, published by Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2005.

We come to worship the God of compassion on this darkest night aware that our world has at times harbored unfathomable cruelty. We gather to proclaim the good news of God's love even as we struggle for courage to speak the truth and to trust that grace will triumph in the final end. We long for God to enlarge our hearts to witness love even now.

Let us pray. Almighty God,

we ask you to look with mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and to be 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, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN: "Abide with Me"

**1. Abide with me, fast falls the eventide,
the darkness deepens, Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.**

**2. I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like thyself my guide and stay shall be?
Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me.**

**3. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see;
o thou that changest not, abide with me.**

CONFESSION

Jesus, Son of the living God, **have mercy on us.**
Jesus, Son of the sorrowing Mother, **have mercy on us.**
Jesus, Redeemer of the world, **have mercy on us.**
Jesus, meek and humble of heart, **have mercy on us.**
Jesus, burning with love for us, **have mercy on us.**
Jesus, abandoned by your disciples, **have mercy on us.**
Jesus, sold for thirty pieces of silver, **have mercy on us.**
Jesus, agonized in the garden, **have mercy on us.**
Jesus, betrayed by Judas' kiss, **have mercy on us.**

Jesus, denied by Peter,have mercy on us.
 Jesus, delivered up to Pilate,have mercy on us.
 Jesus, rejected by the people,have mercy on us.
 Jesus, set aside in favor of Barabbas,have mercy on us.
 Jesus, handed over by Herod,have mercy on us.
 Jesus, accused falsely and condemned unjustly,.....have mercy on us.
 Jesus, bound with cords and blindfolded,have mercy on us.
 Jesus, struck in the face and spat upon,have mercy on us.
 Jesus, mocked and crowned with thorns,have mercy on us.
 Jesus, scourged at the pillar,have mercy on us.
 Jesus, laden with the heavy cross,have mercy on us.
 Jesus, burdened with the sins of the world,have mercy on us.
 Jesus, led with thieves to execution,have mercy on us.
 Jesus, brought to Calvary to die for us,have mercy on us.
 Jesus, suffering on the cross,have mercy on us.
 Jesus, obedient unto death,have mercy on us.
 Jesus, dead and buried in the tomb,have mercy on us.
 Jesus, raised from the dead,have mercy on us.
 Jesus, salvation of all,.....have mercy on us.
 Jesus, our Mediator with the Father,have mercy on us.
 Jesus, our peace and reconciliation,have mercy on us.

Let us proclaim our Christian belief.

Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free. You are the Savior of the world.

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength, honor and glory and praise!

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his own blood, who has made us a royal nation of priests in the service of his God and Father to him be glory and power forever more! Amen.

THE FIRST WORD:.....Luke 23:32-34

Two criminals were led along with Jesus to be crucified. When they came to Skull Place, they crucified him there and the criminals as well, one on his right and the other on his left. Jesus said:

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

MEDITATION & SILENT PRAYER:Pastor Mark Roberts

By Mary Gonzales from “Echoes of Calvary”

RESPONSE: Lord Jesus Christ, wounded and crushed;
You gave your life that we might live.

HYMN: "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"

- 1. Alas! and did my Savior bleed, and did my sov 'reign die?
Would he devote that sacred head for sinners such as I?**
- 2. Was it for sins that I had done he groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown, and love beyond degree!**
- 5. But tears of grief cannot repay the debt of love I owe;
here, Lord, I give myself away; it's all that I can do.**

THE SECOND WORD:..... **Luke 23:39-43**

One of the criminals hanging in crucifixion blasphemed Jesus:

"Aren't you the Messiah? Then save yourself and us."

But the other one rebuked him:

"Have you no fear of God, seeing you are under the same sentence? We deserve it, after all. We are only paying the price for what we've done, but this man had done nothing wrong."

He then said: "Jesus, remember me when you enter upon your reign"

He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

MEDITATION & SILENT PRAYER: **Pastor Enten Eller**

By Alison Boden from "Echoes of Calvary"

RESPONSE: Lord Jesus Christ, wounded and crushed;
You gave your life that we might live.

HYMN: "Jesus, Remember Me"

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

(Sing seven times.)

THE THIRD WORD: **John 19:25-27**

Near the cross of Jesus there stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. Seeing his mother there with the disciple whom he loved, Jesus said to his mother:

"Woman, there is your son."

In turn he said to the disciple:

"There is your mother."

MEDITATION & SILENT PRAYER:..... Pastor Michele Curtis
By Rachel Thompson from "Echoes of Calvary"

RESPONSE: Lord Jesus Christ, wounded and crushed;
You gave your life that we might live.

HYMN: "Oh Sacred Head, Now Wounded"
verses 1 & 2

**1. O sacred head now wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded with thorns,
thine only crown;**

**Oh sacred head, what glory,
what bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call thee mine.**

**2. How art thou pale with anguish,
with sore abuse and scorn;
how does that visage languish
which once was bright as morn!**

**Thy grief and bitter passion were all for sinners' gain;
mine, mine was the transgression,
but thine the deadly pain.**

THE FOURTH WORD: **Matthew 27:4-6**
From noon onward, there was darkness over the whole land until mid-afternoon. Then toward mid-afternoon, Jesus cried out in a loud tone:

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

MEDITATION & SILENT PRAYER: Pastor Kris Chandler
By Martin E. Marty from "Echoes of Calvary"

RESPONSE: Lord Jesus Christ, wounded and crushed;
You gave your life that we might live.

HYMN: "Ah, Holy Jesus"

**1. Ah, Holy Jesus, how hast thou offended
that man to judge thee hath in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted.**

2. Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus hath undone thee.
"Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee; I crucified thee.

THE FIFTH WORD:**John 19:28**

Jesus, realizing that everything was now finished, said to fulfill the Scripture:
"I am thirsty."

MEDITATION & SILENT PRAYER: Pastor Bill Middleton
By Peter J. Gomes from "Echoes of Calvary"

RESPONSE: Lord Jesus Christ, wounded and crushed;
You gave your life that we might live.

HYMN: "Beneath the Cross"

1. Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand;
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,
a home within a wilderness, a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat and burdens of the day.
2. Upon the cross of Jesus, my eye at times can see
the very dying form of one who suffered there for me.
And from my contrite heart, with tears, two wonders I confess:
the wonder of his glorious love and my unworthiness.

THE SIXTH WORD:**JOHN 19:30**

There was a jar there, full of common wine. A soldier stuck a sponge soaked in this wine on some hyssop and raised it to Jesus' lips. When Jesus took the wine, he said:
"Now it is finished."

MEDITATION & SILENT PRAYER: Pastor Jacob Curtis

RESPONSE: Lord Jesus Christ, wounded and crushed;
You gave your life that we might live.

HYMN: "Oh Sacred Head Now Wounded" verses 3 & 4

3. What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend,
for this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?
Oh, make me thine forever, and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love for thee.
4. Lord, be my consolation; shield me when I must die;
remind me of thy passion when my last hour draws nigh.

**These eyes, new faith receiving, from thee shall never move;
for he who dies believing dies safely in thy love.**

THE SEVENTH WORD:..... Luke 23:44-46

Around midday, darkness came over the whole land until mid-afternoon with an eclipse of the sun. The curtain of the temple sanctuary was tom in two. Jesus uttered a loud cry and said:

“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”

MEDITATION & SILENT PRAYER: Ms. Edi Calvert

By Martin Luther King Jr. from “Echoes of Calvary”

**RESPONSE: Lord Jesus Christ, wounded and crushed;
You gave your life that we might live.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*Whispered*)

**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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

HYMN: “Were You There?” Sung by Hannah Addison,
Trinity Lutheran Church

CLOSING OF THE BIBLE/TOMB

At your desired length of silence, you may exit the service in peace.

OUR SERVANTS IN WORSHIP

Ms. Edith Calvert	Boehm's Church, United Church of Christ
Pastor Kris Chandler	Trinity Lutheran Church
Pastors Michelle & Jacob Curtis	Ambler Mennonite Church
Pastor Enten Eller	Ambler Church of the Brethren
Pastor Bill Middleton	Boehm's Church, United Church of Christ
Pastor Mark Roberts	St. Paul’s United Church of Christ