



LOVE *at the* CORE.

The Seven Last Words of Christ Good Friday

April 18, 2025 | Noon to 3 p.m.

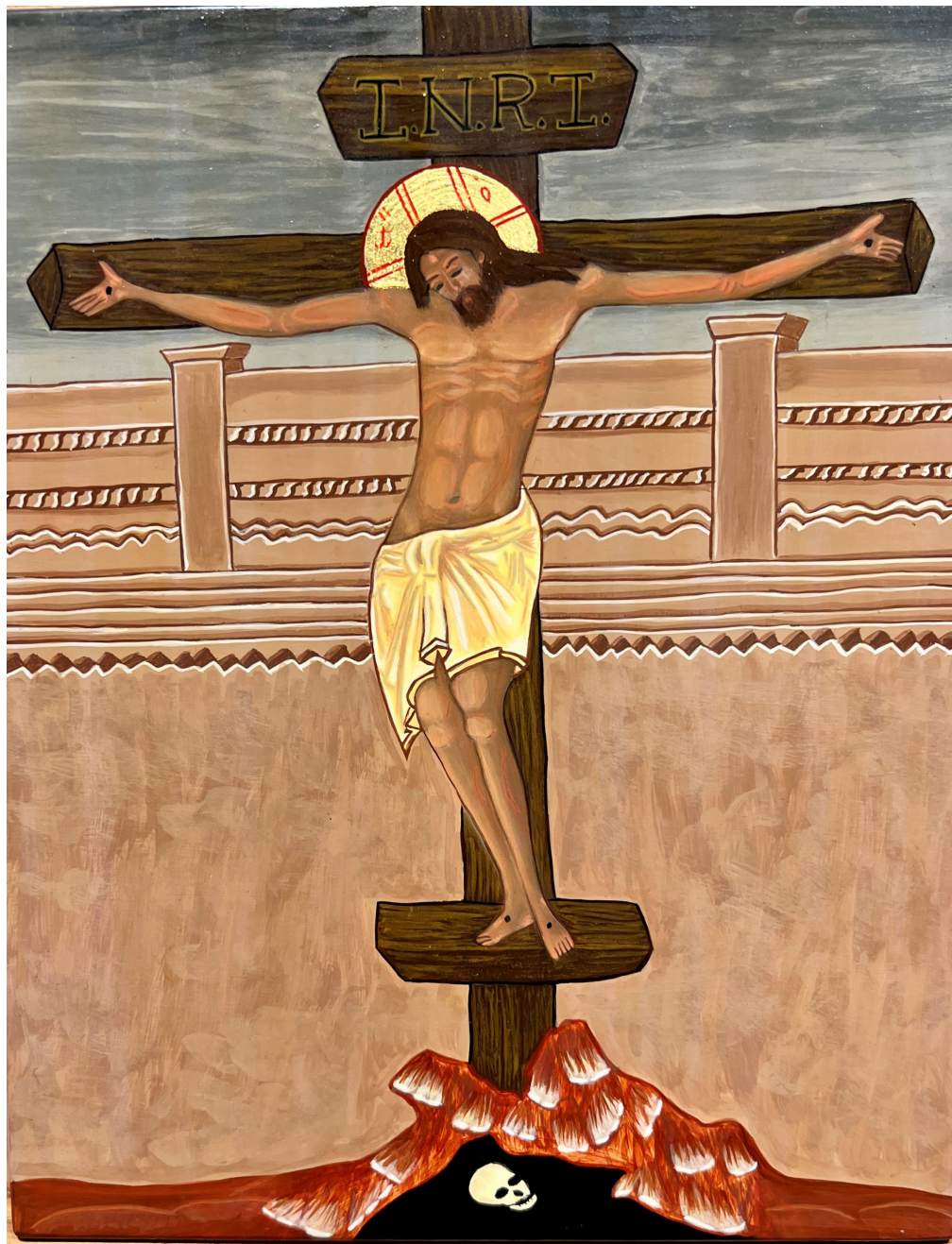


Image is a photo of the icon "The Crucifixion" written by Megan Gapusan. Date unknown.

✠THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST✠

*Welcome! As we gather in silence, please turn off cell phones and electronic devices.
Those attending this service are free to come and go as needed.*

Celebrant Blessed be our God.
All For ever and ever. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God, we pray you graciously to 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, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Celebrant Lord, have mercy.
All Christ, have mercy.

Celebrant Lord, have mercy.
All 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.

All are seated for the readings.

I. "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Luke 23:32-38

Lector: A Reading from the Gospel of Luke

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. 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. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. 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!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

Homily

The Rev. Thomas O'Dell

A period of silence for reflection follows the homily.

Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? Behold and see, if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me, wherewith the Lord hath afflicted me in the day of his fierce anger.

A period of silence for reflection follows the music.

II. “Woman, here is your son.” “Here is your mother.” John 19:25b-27

Lector: A Reading from the Gospel of John.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Homily

The Rev. Dr. Linda Privitera

A period of silence for reflection follows the homily.

Music

In the departure of the Lord, John Bull

In the departure of the Lord, of mortal body’s vital breath, There lies a mystery worth record, which he did show us here on earth: Who doth prepare to die each hour must follow Christ our Saviour.

A period of silence for reflection follows the music.

III. “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Matthew 27:45-54

Lector: A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “This man is calling for Elijah.” At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.” Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the

holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

Homily

The Rev. Deacon Anita Fortino

A period of silence for reflection follows the homily.

Music

O crux ave, G. P. Palestrina

*O Crux ave, spes unica
hoc Passionis tempore
piis adauge gratiam
reis que dele crimina.*

O cross, our one reliance, hail
so may thy power with us prevail
to give new virtue to the saint,
and pardon to the penitent.

A period of silence for reflection follows the music.

IV. "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Luke 23:39-43

Lector: A Reading from the Gospel of Luke

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

Homily

The Rev. Keith Oglesby

A period of silence for reflection follows the homily.

Music

At the cry of the first bird, David W. Guion
Carole Clifford, soprano

At the cry of the first bird
They began to crucify Thee.
O cheek like a swan!
It was not right ever to cease lamenting.
It was like the parting of day from night.

A period of silence for reflection follows the music.

Lector: A Reading from the Gospel of John

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." 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.

Homily

The Rev. Dr. Robert Dannals

A period of silence for reflection follows the homily.

Music

Ten Chorale Preludes, Gerald Near
IX. Herzlich tut mich verlangen

A period of silence for reflection follows the music.

Lector: A Reading from the Gospel of John.

When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. 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. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

Homily

The Rev. Kurt Dunkle

A period of silence for reflection follows the homily.

Music

O Welt, ich muss dich lassen

Johannes Brahms

A period of silence for reflection follows the music.

Lector: A Reading from the Gospel of Luke.

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun’s light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, “Certainly this man was innocent.” And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Homily

The Rev. B. Wiley Ammons

A period of silence for reflection follows the homily.

Music

Were you there?, Traditional Spiritual
Paul Fisher, baritone

A period of silence for reflection follows the music.

Solemn Prayers

All stand.

Leader Dear People of God, Jesus was sent into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved; that all who believe in him might be delivered from the power of sin and death and become heirs with him of everlasting life. We pray, therefore, for people everywhere according to their needs.

All kneel.

Leader Let us pray for the people of this world who feel lost and alone. For those who have suffered trauma in war, school shootings, human trafficking or any other acts of violence. For those who have never known your love and peace. For those who doubt that there is anyone out there who would care for them.

Silence

Leader Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit, the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all who suffer and yearn for your peace. Amen.

Leader Let us pray for all nations and peoples of the earth, and for those in authority among them;
for the Middle East
for Ukraine
for Sudan
for Congo
for Haiti
for this Country and this City
for Justice and Peace on the earth
that by God's help all the peoples of the earth may seek justice and truth and live in peace.

Silence

Leader Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquility your dominion may increase, until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader Let us pray for all who suffer in body or in mind;
for the hungry and the homeless
for the sick, the wounded and those who are differently abled
for those who are lonely and afraid
for those who battle addiction
for those who face despair
that God will comfort and relieve them, grant them fullness of grace and strengthen us to minister to their needs with patience and understanding.

Silence

Leader Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: let the cry of those in misery and need come to you, that they may find your mercy present with them in all their afflictions; and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them for the sake of him who suffered for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader Let us pray for all who do not know the love of God;
for those who seldom hear a kind word
for those who have lost their faith
for those hardened by indifference
for the contemptuous and the scornful
for those who oppress and persecute others
that God will open all their hearts to forgive themselves and others.

Silence

Leader Merciful One, you know the hearts of every one of us. You shower your love down upon us, but often we cannot open our hearts to receive that love. Awaken us to the miracle of your abounding mercy and forgiveness, that we may know the sustaining power of your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus, who loved us so much that he gave his life for us.

Silence

Leader Merciful God, creator of all the earth and lover of souls, awaken us to the needs of this beautiful planet that you have made. Help us to understand that this earth is living and fragile, responsive and holy. Help us to curb our desires and appetites, that we may reduce our consumption and cease our pollution of your creation. For the love of your son Jesus, who walked this earth and loved your creation. Amen.

Let us commit ourselves to God and pray for the grace of a holy life, that, with all who have departed this world and have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to God alone, we may be accounted worthy to enter into the fullness of the joy of our Lord, and receive the crown of life in the day of resurrection.

Silence

Leader O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on all human life, that wonderful and sacred mystery, and help us with grateful hearts to receive the fullness of your grace. Let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by God through whom all things were made. We pray in the holy name of your son Jesus who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Closing Prayer

All Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, we thank you for the gift of your passion, cross and death. We thank you that you come to us both in life and in death, both in pain and in comfort, both in sorrow and in joy. Give mercy and grace to the living, pardon and rest to the dead; to this troubled world peace; and to all people everlasting life, for the majesty, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Tolling of the Bell

At three o'clock the bell is tolled thirty-three times. This is to signify that the 33 years of Christ's life ended at three o'clock with his death on the cross. The tolling of the bell ends the service. All may leave in silence or remain for silent prayer and meditation