

THE SIXTH WORD

John 19:30

The Victor's Proclamation

"It is finished."

Pastor Deborah Port

ONE: Let us pray.

MANY: **Masterful Jesus:**

Out of the atrocity of death You painted a masterpiece of life.

ONE: With Your brush and palette, You mixed water and blood,
painting eternal love over violence, suffering, and loneliness.

MANY: **From the cross, You took our instrument of death,
and transformed it into a living reminder of your Tree of Life.**

ONE: When we survey the cross,
Help us see both its ugliness and beauty,
That we might echo Your victorious proclamation:

MANY: **It is finished. Amen**

HYMN# 298

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"
(Singing All Verses)

THE LAST WORD

Luke 23:44-49

The Child's Pledge

"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."

Rev. Randall G. Bennett, Jr.

~ DARKNESS ~

TO THE GRAVE

John 19:31-34, 38-42

BENEDICTION

All leave in silence.

Seven Meditations Upon *the* Cross of Our Lord

A Service of Progressive Darkness for Good Friday

March 29, 2024

7:00p.m.

PRELUDE

"O The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus"

Angerman

Deborah Benedict, *Director of Music*

***THE BIDDING PRAYER**

Pastor Deborah Port

ONE: Let us pray.

Almighty Father: We gather tonight as your family,
born of your Spirit
and washed in the Lambs Holy blood.

MANY: **Grant us wisdom to seriously consider your Son's final words from
the cross.**

ONE: Offer us insight into the depths of your love for us.

MANY: **Make us sincere students of the cross of Jesus Christ,
that we might faithfully carry His banner of glory
into our generation and the next.**

ONE: Make it so, Lord Jesus:
Until that day when every knee shall bow
and tongue confess that you are Lord.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

MANY: **Amen.**

*HYMN #296

"Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle"
Please be seated following the hymn.

THE FIRST WORD

Luke 23:33-34

The Divine's Pardon

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

Dennis Helsel

ONE: Let us pray.

MANY: **Pardoning God:**

**Through Jesus you have offered forgiveness for all who receive it.
May we recognize our unworthiness
in light of the wonder of your redeeming love.
By this recognition, stir in us a Spirit of forgiveness,
that we might willingly forgive as we have been forgiven.
Amen.**

HYMN #297

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

(Singing Verses 2 and 3)

THE SECOND WORD

Luke 23:39-43

The Savior's Promise

"I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

Linda Hoffman

ONE: Let us pray.
 Promising God: As we survey the cross,
 we see a God who is willing to endure shame, scorn, and insult:
 a God who will hang out with us in the worst of circumstances;
 and a God who promises that this day will get better.

MANY: **Help us to remember that your promise of paradise
 is not dependent upon our actions but your grace.**

ONE: Plant within each of us a mustard seed faith.

MANY: **Grow each seed into a mighty oak of righteousness,
 that we may never outlive our love for you. Amen.**

HYMN #286

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

(Singing Verses 1 and 3)

THE THIRD WORD

John 19:25-27

The Son's Provision

"Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother."

Corvé Ransom

ONE: Let us pray.

MANY: **Providing God:
 Through the blood of your Son, Jesus Christ,
 you have provided us with a new family.
 Help us to grapple with the tension
 of your full humanity and full divinity.
 Equip us to carry our crosses where you direct,
 and in doing so, fill our hands with loving sacrifice
 that there may be no room for entitlement.
 Amen.**

HYMN #424

"Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone"

(Singing Verses 1 and 3)

THE FOURTH WORD

Mark 15:33-34

The Singer's Psalm

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

Becky Miller

ONE: Let us pray.
 Merciful Jesus:
 Before the foundations of the world, You were singing salvation.

MANY: **When our love failed, and hatred overcame us,
 Your love remained steadfast.**

ONE: Instead of condemning us, Your Father condemned You:
 compressing an eternity of judgment upon You in three dark hours.

MANY: **You were forsaken, yet you chose to sing salvation from the cross.**

ONE: Help us to sing the wondrous love of salvation with our lives,
 That when we are free from death...

MANY: **...We'll sing on in your eternal choir.
 Amen.**

HYMN #292

"What Wondrous Love Is This"

(Singing Verses 3 and 4)

THE FIFTH WORD

John 19:28-29

The Quencher's Price

"I am thirsty."

Dennis Helsel

ONE: Let us pray.
 Broken Jesus:
 You poured out Living Water on a thirsty creation,
 Calling us to drink and never again be thirsty.

MANY: **You emptied Your cup of salvation completely
 And refilled Your cup with death.**

ONE: You did not let this cup pass from You,
 but took it and drank deeply,

MANY: **Until all that remained was the dust of death and Your love.**

ONE: Like a potsherd, You were broken for us.

MANY: **By Your grace, make us broken enough in spirit
 to come and drink fully from the cup of Your salvation. Amen.**

HYMN #641

"Fill My Cup, Lord"