

7:00 p.m. ~ Friday, March 29th

PRELUDE

“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”

arr. John Behnke

Organ

WELCOME & RELATIONSHIPS of PEACE

OPENING HYMN “Sing My Tongue the Glorious Battle”

OPENING LITURGY

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin,

C: **so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.**

P: He was wounded for our transgressions;

C: **He was crushed for our iniquities;**

P: upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,

C: **and with His stripes we are healed.**

P: Lord, your ways are not our ways.

C: **But in our seeking we see glimmers of your grand design.**

P: Lord, you allowed violent, arrogant and fearful men to inflict on your son excruciating pain and shame.

C: **To these, Jesus said from the cross, “Father forgive them, they know not what they do”.**

P: Lord, you left Him to die alongside criminals and thieves.

C: **To these, Jesus said from the cross, “Today you will be with me in paradise”.**

P: As the weight of his body wrenched his hands from the nails, the Word made flesh saw the tears of his followers and felt compassion.

C: **To them, Jesus said from the cross “Woman, behold thy son! Behold, thy mother”.**

P: As the death nears, He utters the words of a man who is very much fully mortal.

C: **“My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?”.**

P: In his despair, He expressed our most basic of human needs.

C: **“I thirst”.**

P: A sponge of sour wine is offered. Jesus takes it to his lips. Then, knowing he has done all that the Father has asked and the Scriptures have foretold, He declares:

C: **“It is finished”.**

P: So that no soul could doubt what had transpired on that hill, Jesus spoke these final words—words that you and I are invited to make our own again tonight:

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

P: Lord our God, You took upon Your shoulders the weight of fallen humanity, becoming the sin offering for us so that we are made righteous in Your sight. Hear us as we bow before Your cross and lay our sins at Your feet.

Moment of Silent Confession

P: Gracious Father,

C: **have mercy upon us. We are undeserving of Your love.**

P: Loving Lord Jesus,

C: **take our sins from us. Show us the depths of Your love, found only in the cross.**

P: Renewing Holy Spirit,

C: **Guide us and lead us. Enable us by faith to cling to the grace that alone can save. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His great mercy has given His Son to die for you and, for His sake, He forgives you all your sins. Jesus bore our sins in His body on the cross so that we may die to sin and live in His righteousness. By His wounds, you have been healed. As a called and ordained servant of our crucified Savior, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Suffering Savior,

C: **Have mercy upon us.**

P: Crucified Christ,

C: **Have mercy upon us.**

P: Merciful Messiah,

C: **Grant us Your peace.**

STATEMENT of FAITH *The Apostles' Creed*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Sacred Silence”

arr. Karissa Dennis

Dona Nobis Pacem Handbells

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

RESPONSE “What Wondrous Love is This”

+ **THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST** +



THE FIRST WORD: “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

SCRIPTURE READING **Luke 23:32-34a** *[ESV]*

Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

MEDITATION *Louis McKenna*

ANTHEM

“Father, Forgive Them”

arr. Pepper Choplin

Voices of Peace



THE SECOND WORD: “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 23:35-43 [ESV]

And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ 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.”

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? 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 justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

MEDITATION *Boyd Shannon*

RESPONSE “Jesus, Remember Me”



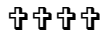
THE THIRD WORD: “Women, behold your son!... Behold, your mother!”

SCRIPTURE READING John 19:25-27 [ESV]

But standing by 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 nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

MEDITATION *Mary Hildebrandt*

RESPONSE “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”



THE FOURTH WORD: “My God, My God, why have You forsaken me?”

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 15:33-34 [ESV]

And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

MEDITATION *Rev. Jay DeBeir*

RESPONSE “Throned Upon the Awful Tree”



THE FIFTH WORD: “I thirst.”

SCRIPTURE READING John 19:28-29 [ESV]

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth.

MEDITATION *DCE Kim Austin*

ANTHEM

“A Lenten Introspection”

Dona Nobis Pacem Handbells

arr. Matthew Compton



THE SIXTH WORD: “It is finished.”

SCRIPTURE READING John 19:30 [ESV]

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

MEDITATION *Vicar/SMP William Dale Rowland*

RESPONSE “The Blood of Jesus Speaks for Me”



THE SEVENTH WORD: “Father, into Your hands I commit my spirit!”

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 23:44-46 [ESV]

It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun’s light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this he breathed his last.

MEDITATION *Rev. Brian Weaver*

ANTHEM

“O Sacred Head”

Voices of Peace

arr. Mary McDonald

REMOVAL of the CHRIST CANDLE

CLOSING HYMN “Rest, O Christ, From All Your Labors”

THE LORD’S PRAYER

THE STREPITUS



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