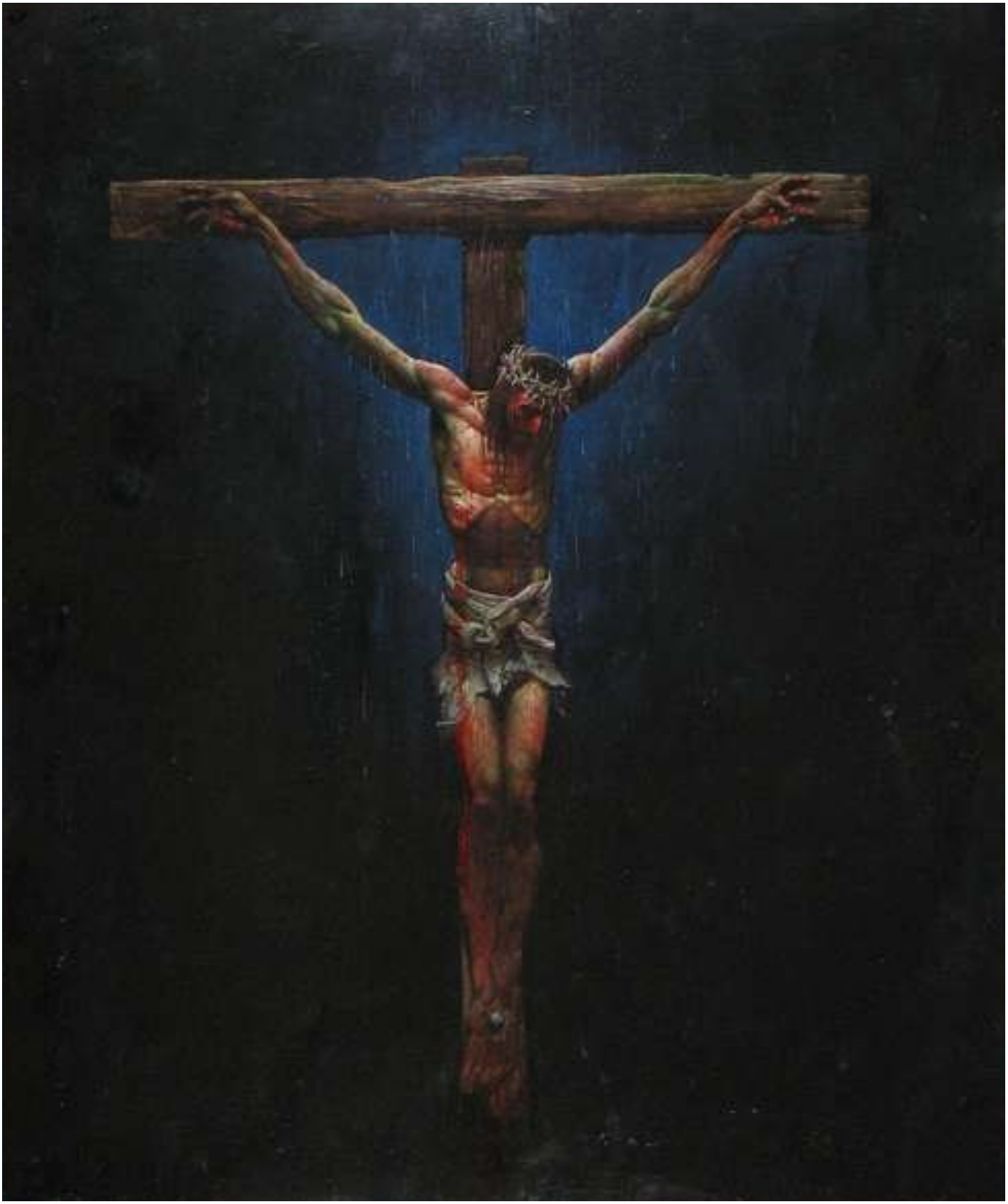

SERVICE OF DARKNESS

Good Friday
April 14, 2017

WELCOME TO OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH!

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this evening. We are happy that you are here! In our service we gather before our almighty God to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful Word. If you are a guest, please fill out a Connection card found in our entryway. You can place it in the offering plate or hand it to Pastor or an usher as you leave.

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Good Friday — April 14, 2017

All of human history hinges on this day. Humbling himself before the will of the Father and the blood-thirst of men, the Son of God is slaughtered. Even worse than an ignominible death, the Father must reject his own Son since he bears the sin of the world. But all this served God's saving purpose, and so we call this Friday…Good.

Good Friday is not a "funeral" for Jesus, but an austere celebration of the Lamb and his sacrifice. The bare altar, symbolic of Christ, is the focus along with a large, rough-finished wood cross that is placed before it. The Service of Darkness developed from the early morning monastic prayer services of Matins and Lauds but has come to be used as an evening service on Good Friday. The service centers on a series of lessons, psalms, and liturgical texts that reflect on the Lord's crucifixion and our repentance.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

As you prepare to worship your Lord today, spend a few quiet moments in prayer before the service. Review the Scripture readings, the service notes, and pray this prayer:

> God Most Holy, look with mercy on this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, be given over into the hands of the wicked, and suffer death upon the cross. Keep us always faithful to him, our only Savior, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Music: Mr. Brent Nolte

Service Leader: Pastor Ben Kratz
Church Office: (205) 677-8642
Cell: (205) 478-6843
Email: Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com

FOR FAMILIES

Children's Activity Sheets give activities and lessons pertaining to the Scripture lessons for today's service. Ask an usher at the door into the sanctuary.

If your little one needs a moment, there is a speaker and window in our entryway that will allow you to see and hear the service.

Children's Church is a special place for younger children to hear a Bible story, sing some songs, learn a prayer, and do a craft. You can escort your child to our children's church just before the sermon as noted in the service folder. Children's Church is located in Room 3 and will be on your right as you exit the sanctuary.

INFORMATION

Bathrooms are located at the end of the hallway as you exit the sanctuary.

Looking for more information? If you would like to learn more about Our Savior Lutheran Church, You can stay up to date and in the know by connecting with Our Savior online.

- ***OurSaviorBirmingham.com*** **|** *Video and audio sermons archives, calendar of events, and more!*
- ***@OurSaviorBham*** **|** *Daily Bible passage, weekly sermon videos, and upcoming events*
- ***OurSaviorBham*** **|** *Daily Bible passage, weekly video worship service previews, and upcoming events*
- ***OurSaviorBham*** **|** *Daily Bible passage, event pictures, and church pictures*
- ***OurSaviorBham*** **|** *Weekly sermon videos and worship service previews*
- ***Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com*** **|** *Pastor Kratz's email*

Free WIFI is available if you use an online Bible or Bible app on your phone or tablet. Look for the "OSLC_Guest" connection to get online!

Our Savior Lutheran Church is a member of a group of more than twelve hundred churches called Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a world-wide church body with congregations serving the United States, as well as Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and over 25 countries through world mission work.

WELS
Christ's Love, Our Calling.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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TODAY'S WORSHIP

HYMN | #100 *A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth (v. 1,4)*

READING | *Isaiah 53 (pg. 1145)*

~Please stand

53 Who has believed our message
and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
2 He grew up before him like a tender shoot,
and like a root out of dry ground.
He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
3 He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.
Like one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

4 Surely he took up our infirmities
and carried our sorrows,
yet we considered him stricken by God,
smitten by him, and afflicted.
5 But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was upon him,
and by his wounds we are healed.
6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
and as a sheep before her shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

[8] By oppression and judgment he was taken away.
And who can speak of his descendants?
For he was cut off from the land of the living;
for the transgression of my people he was stricken.
[9] He was assigned a grave with the wicked,
and with the rich in his death,
though he had done no violence,
nor was any deceit in his mouth.

[10] Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,
and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering,
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,
and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.
[11] After the suffering of his soul,
he will see the light of life and be satisfied;
by his knowledge my righteous
servant will justify many,
and he will bear their iniquities.
[12] Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,
and he will divide the spoils with the strong,
because he poured out his life unto death,
and was numbered with the transgressors.
For he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

Worship Notes

PRAYER

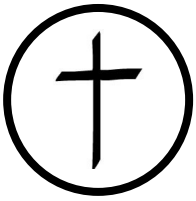
L Let us pray:

God Most Holy, look with mercy on this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, be given over into the hands of the wicked, and suffer death upon the cross. Keep us always faithful to him, our only Savior, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

C **Amen.**

~Please be seated

CHRIST'S SEVEN WORDS ON THE CROSS



FIRST WORD | *Luke 23:26-34 (pg. 1641)*

26 As they led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the
country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. 27 A large number of people
followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. 28 Jesus turned and said to them,
"Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. 29 For the
time will come when you will say, 'Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and
the breasts that never nursed!' 30 Then

" 'they will say to the mountains, "Fall on us!"
and to the hills, "Cover us!" '

31 For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?"
32 Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. 33 When they came
to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals—one on his right, the
other on his left. 34 Jesus said, **"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."**
And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

The first candle is extinguished.

Silence for meditation

HYMN | #139 *Jesus, in Your Dying Woes (v 1,4, 6)*

SECOND WORD | *Luke 23:38-43 (pg. 1641)*

Worship Notes

38 There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

39 One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

40 But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? 41 We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

43 Jesus answered him, **"I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."**

The second candle is extinguished.

Silence for meditation

HYMN | #117 *O Dearest Jesus (v 1-3)*

THIRD WORD | *John 19:25-27 (pg. 1684)*

25 Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, **"Dear woman, here is your son," 27 and to the disciple, "Here is your mother."** From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

The third candle is extinguished.

Silence for meditation

HYMN | #129 *Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed (v 1-2)*

FOURTH WORD | *Matthew 27:45-49 (pg. 1641)*

45 From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. 46 About the ninth
hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ***"Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"***—which means, **"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"**

47 When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling Elijah."

48 Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a stick,
and offered it to Jesus to drink. 49 The rest said, "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to
save him."

The fourth candle is extinguished.

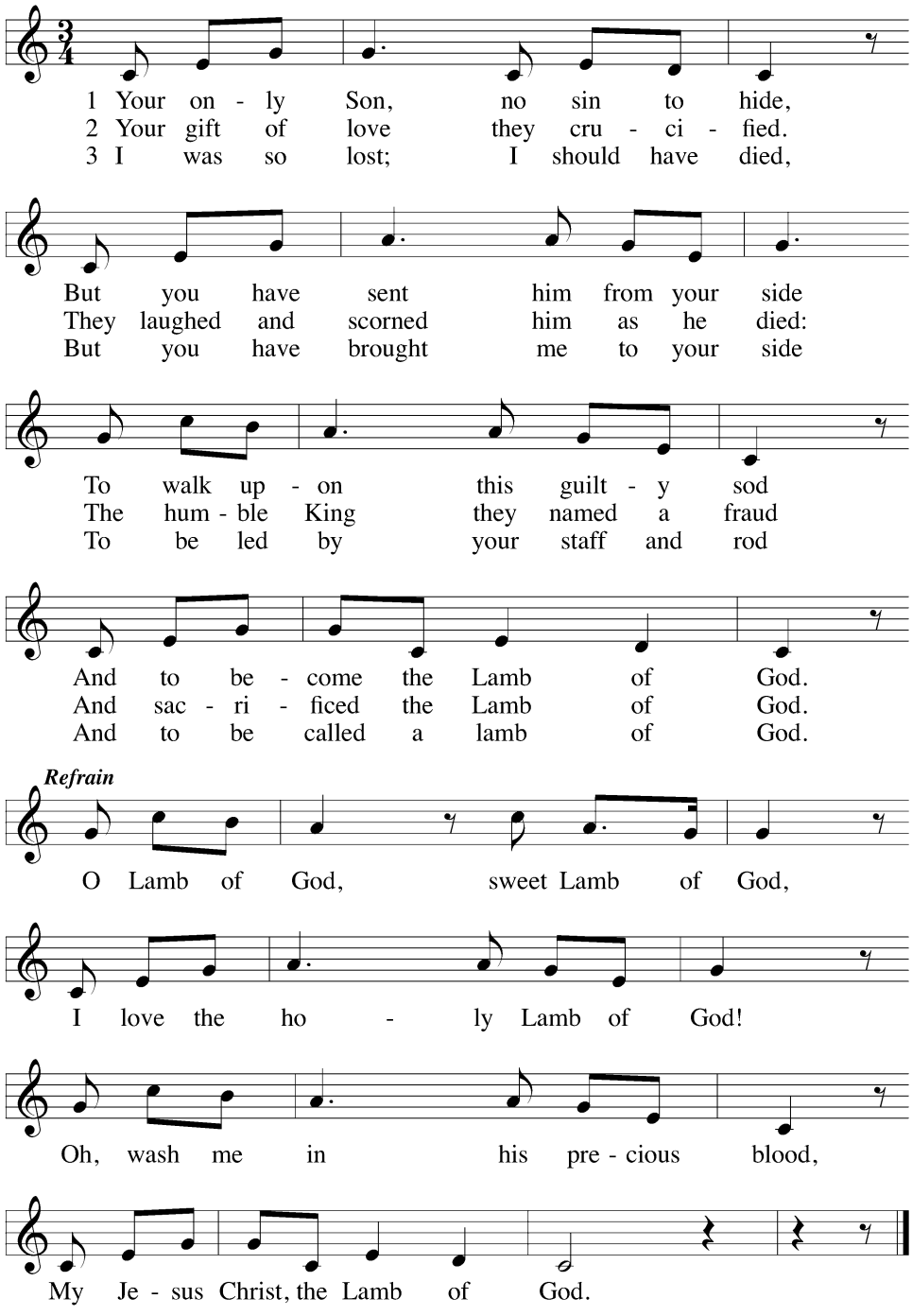
Silence for meditation

CHOIR ANTHEM | *His Grace is Greater* *by Michael Sharp*

Lift your eyes to a distant hill in another time and place.
See a cross standing stark and still, a reflection of God's grace.
God's own Son, a sacrifice, pure and holy spotless Lamb.
And tho' he paid so great a price Was it enough for the sinner that I am?
His grace is greater, his grace is full and free, His grace is infinite, reaching even me.
So freely given to all who will receive, Gods' grace is higher, God's grace is deeper,
His grace is greater than all our sin.
A helpless child, I run to him, bruised and broken deep within.
Gentle arms outstretched for me let me know the love that sets me free!
His grace is greater, His grace is full and free, His grace is infinite, reaching even me.
So freely given to all who will receive, God's grace is higher, God's grace is deeper,
His grace is greater than all our sin.

DEVOTION | *Matthew 27:46 (pg. 1641)*

HYMN | #748 *Lamb of God*



Worship Notes

FIFTH WORD | *John 19:28-29 (pg. 1684)*

28 Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus
said, **"I am thirsty."** 29 A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge
on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips.

The fifth candle is extinguished.

Silence for meditation

HYMN | #125 *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (v 1-3)*

SIXTH WORD | *John 19:30 (pg. 1684)*

30 When he had received the drink, Jesus said, **"It is finished."** With that, he bowed his head and
gave up his spirit.

The sixth candle is extinguished.

Silence for meditation

HYMN | #138 *Oh, Perfect Life of Love*

BIDDING PRAYER

Worship Notes

~Please stand

L Let us pray for the whole Church, that our gracious Father would defend her from the devil and keep her faithful to her Lord.

Silent prayer

L Almighty and everlasting God, you have revealed your saving name to the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. Protect us from the assaults of the evil one, and help us remain faithful to your Word so that in every adversity we may stand firm in our faith and give ourselves fully to our Savior's work, through Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

L Let us pray for those who serve in the public ministry and for all people of God.

Silent prayer

L Almighty and everlasting God, you rule over all things for the good of your people. Preserve us from divisive spirits and false teachers. Give your servants the grace to proclaim Christ joyfully in word and deed so that all who hear them may come to know their Savior better and be strengthened for their lives of service, through Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

L Let us pray for those who are being instructed in the Word, that they remain firm in the simple faith of Baptism.

Silent prayer

L Almighty and everlasting God, you make us your own dear children by the washing of rebirth and renewal in the Holy Spirit. Give strength to all who are buried with Christ in Baptism, that each day they may die to sin and rise again to live new and holy lives, through Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

L Let us pray for our earthly government, our rulers, and all who are in authority.

Silent prayer

L Almighty and everlasting God, you have established earthly government to keep a measure of order in this dying world and to protect us from the disorder of sin. Give to all rulers the wisdom to govern well and to all citizens the desire to obey them, so that we may live peaceful lives in all godliness and holiness, through Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

L Let us pray that our gracious Father would protect us and our communities from the many earthly calamities that threaten us.

Silent prayer

Worship Notes

L Almighty and everlasting God, on all sides we are surrounded by danger from wars and famine, from disease and pestilence, with the devil begrudging us every minute of our lives. Protect us from all these miseries so that your name may still be glorified in them and so that we may safely pass through them to your heavenly kingdom, through Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

L Let us pray for those who are outside the Church, that they may come to know the one true God and Jesus Christ whom he has sent.

Silent prayer

L Almighty and everlasting God, your Son was lifted up on the cross so that he might draw all people to himself. Through the proclamation of your Word, mercifully gather from the nations a people that are your very own, that we may join together around your throne in glory to praise and thank you forever, through Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

L Let us pray for our enemies and for all those who hate us.

Silent prayer

L Almighty and everlasting God, no one can harm us without grieving you, whose name we bear. We ask that you would change the hearts of those who work against us and who hate us without reason. Give them repentance and faith so that they may be glad with us and find joy in your love, through Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

L Let us pray for all who suffer under cross and trial.

Silent prayer

L Almighty and everlasting God, you sent your Son into the world to bear our griefs and to carry our sorrows. Help those who are suffering for your name's sake and who are struggling against temptation, that they may not be overwhelmed with sadness but find relief in your grace, through Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

L Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask in the words he himself has taught us.

LORD'S PRAYER

C **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.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

~Please be seated

SEVENTH WORD | *Luke 23:44-46 (pg. 1684)*

Worship Notes

[44] It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, [45] for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. [46] Jesus called out with a loud voice, "**Father, into your hands I commit my spirit**." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

The seventh candle is carried from the chancel.

Silence for meditation

HYMN | #122 *Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle (v1, 4-5)*

PRAYER

L Let us pray:

God Most Holy, look with mercy on this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, be given over into the hands of the wicked, and suffer death upon the cross. Keep us always faithful to him, our only Savior, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

C **Amen.**

Silence for meditation

A loud noise (strepitus) representing the rending of Christ's tomb is heard, and the seventh candle is returned to burn in the chancel.

The congregation may remain for prayer and meditation before dispersing quietly.

Worship Notes

Worship Notes

OurSaviorBirmingham.com

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