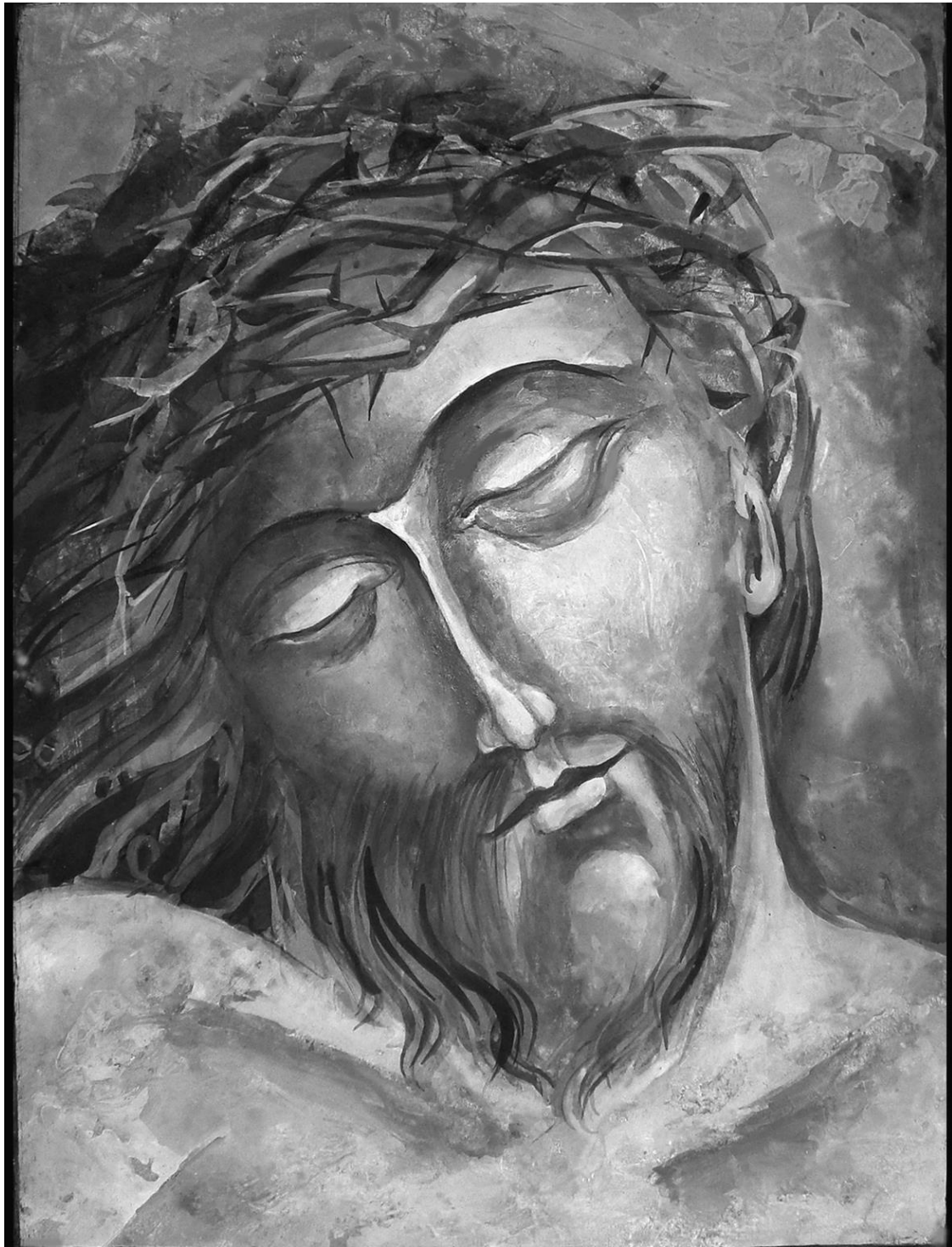


# **GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE**

## **"The Last Words of Jesus"**



**AN ECUMENICAL SERVICE  
OF REMEMBRANCE & PRAYER**

# GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE

## MARCH 29, 2024

### WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

*Tenebrae, a Latin word meaning "shadows," has been observed in the church of Jesus Christ since the fourth century. On this Good Friday, we remember the death of Jesus and recall his seven last words on the cross. As we remember the last words, we will extinguish the candles on the communion table, one by one. The gradual extinguishing of the candles will be accompanied by prayers, hymns, choral anthems, and readings from Scripture. Following the final hymn, the Christ candle will be extinguished to signify Christ's death. After a time of silence, depart in quiet to observe the solemn fast of Saturday, in anticipation of the good news of the resurrection.*

#### Prelude

#### Silent Prayer

#### \*Call to Worship from Isaiah 53:4-6

Surely, he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases;

**Yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.**

But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities;

**Upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises, we are healed.**

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way,

**And the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

**Prayer:** 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, forever and ever. Amen.

#### Song #251

**"Lead Me to Calvary"**

DUNCANNON

#### Litany of Remembrance

Let us remember Jesus:

who, though rich, became poor and dwelt among us,

who was mighty indeed, healing the sick and the troubled,

who, as a teacher to his disciples, was their companion and servant.

**May we ever be grateful for Jesus Christ and what he has done for us.**

Let us remember Jesus:

who prayed for the forgiveness of those who rejected him and for the perfecting of those who received him,

who loved all people, and prayed for them, even if they denied and rejected him,

who hated sin because he knew the cost of pride and selfishness, of cruelty and hatred, both to people and to God.

**May we ever be grateful for Jesus Christ and what he has done for us.**

Let us remember Jesus:

who humbled himself, obedient unto the cross,

who God has exalted,

who has redeemed us from the bondage of sin and given us new freedom.

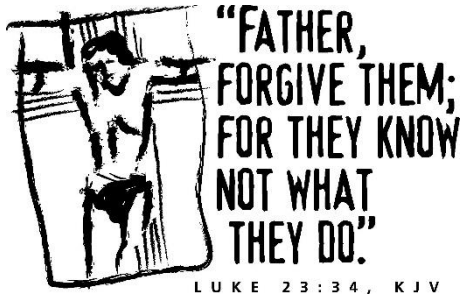
**May we ever be grateful for Jesus Christ and what he has done for us,**

**And continues to do for us.**

**Amen and Amen.**

## THE FIRST WORD

**Words of Jesus:** "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Luke 23:34.



### A Responsive Reading:

### Psalm 51:1-14 (NRSV)

- <sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.
- <sup>2</sup> **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**
- <sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.
- <sup>4</sup> **Against you, you alone, have I sinned,  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are justified in your sentence  
and blameless when you pass  
judgment.**
- <sup>5</sup> Indeed, I was born guilty,  
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
- <sup>6</sup> **You desire truth in the inward being;  
therefore teach me wisdom in my  
secret heart.**

- <sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- <sup>8</sup> **Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have crushed  
rejoice.**
- <sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.
- <sup>10</sup> **Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.**
- <sup>11</sup> Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
- <sup>12</sup> **Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.**
- <sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will return to you.
- <sup>14</sup> **Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,  
O God of my salvation, and my tongue.  
will sing aloud of your deliverance.**

**Call to Prayer:** Beloved children of God: Our heavenly Father sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved; and 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.

### Silent Prayer

Song #

"Were You There?"

*WERE YOU THERE*

[Extinguish Candle / Silence]

## THE SECOND WORD

**Words of Jesus:** "Today you will be with me in Paradise" Luke 23:43



### A Reading:

**John 14:1-6 (NRSV)**

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**Call to Prayer:** Let us pray for the holy Church of Christ throughout the world.

For its unity in witness and service  
For all ministers, preachers, pastor/teachers, evangelists, deacons, missionaries,  
and all persons called to the Gospel vocation and the people whom they serve.  
For our religious judicatory leaders and all the people of this region  
For all Christians in this community and surrounding area  
For those about to be baptized  
For new churches being planted and churches that are closing  
For those praying in secret and all persons persecuted for religious faiths

That God will confirm his Church in faith, increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

### Silent Prayer

### Song

**"Jesus, Remember Me"**

TAIZE COMMUNITY

[Extinguish Candle / Silence]

## THE THIRD WORD

**Words of Jesus:** "Dear woman, here is your son." "Here is your mother." John 19:26-27



"Dear woman, here is your son."  
"Here is your mother."

### Reading:

### Mark 3:31-35 (NRSV)

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you." And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

**Call to Prayer:** Let us pray for all nations and peoples of the earth, and for those in authority among them.

For the President, Vice President, and Executive Branch of the United States  
For the Congress and the Supreme Court  
For the Members and Representatives of the United Nations  
For the Governor, State Assemblies, mayors, police,  
For all who serve the common good

That by God's help they may seek justice and truth and live in peace and concord.

### Silent Prayer

### Song #

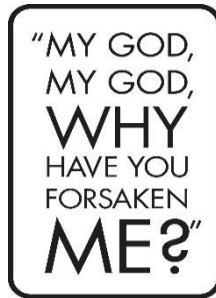
**"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"**

*ST. CHRISTOPHER*

[Extinguish Candle / Silence]

## THE FOURTH WORD

**Words of Jesus:** "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Matthew 27:46



**Reading:**

**Psalm 22:1-11 (NRSV)**

- <sup>1</sup> My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?
- <sup>2</sup> O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;  
and by night but find no rest.
- <sup>3</sup> Yet you are holy,  
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
- <sup>4</sup> In you our ancestors trusted;  
they trusted, and you delivered them.
- <sup>5</sup> To you they cried, and were saved;  
in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.
- <sup>6</sup> But I am a worm, and not human;  
scorned by others, and despised by the people.
- <sup>7</sup> All who see me mock at me;  
they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;
- <sup>8</sup> "Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver—  
let him rescue the one in whom he delights!"
- <sup>9</sup> Yet it was you who took me from the womb;  
you kept me safe on my mother's breast.
- <sup>10</sup> On you I was cast from my birth,  
and since my mother bore me you have been my God.
- <sup>11</sup> Do not be far from me,  
for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

**Call to Prayer:** Let us pray for all who suffer and are afflicted in body or in mind.

For the hungry and the homeless, the destitute and the oppressed  
For the sick, the wounded, and the crippled  
For those in loneliness, fear, and anguish  
For those who face temptation, doubt, and despair.  
For the sorrowful and bereaved  
For prisoners and captives, and those in mortal danger

That God in his mercy will comfort and relieve them, and grant them the knowledge of his love, and stir up in us the will and patience to minister to their needs.

**Silent Prayer**

**Song #169**

**"What Wondrous Love Is This" (Stz. 1 & 2)**

*WONDROUS LOVE*

[Extinguish Candle / Silence]

## THE FIFTH WORD

Words of Jesus:

"I am thirsty." John 19:28



Reading:

Isaiah 55:1-5 (NRSV)

Lo, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and you that have no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.  
<sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?  
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.  
<sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.  
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.  
<sup>4</sup> See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.  
<sup>5</sup> See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.

**Call to Prayer:** Let us pray for all who have not received the Gospel of Christ

For those who have never heard the word of salvation  
For those who have lost their faith  
For those hardened by sin or indifference  
For the contemptuous and the scornful  
For those who are enemies of the cross of Christ and persecutors of his disciples  
For those who in the name of Christ have persecuted others

That God will open their hearts to the truth and lead them to faith and obedience.

**Silent Prayer**

**Song #234**

**"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (St. 1, 2, 3)**

*HAMBURG*

[Extinguish Candle / Silence]



## THE SIXTH WORD

Words of Jesus:

"It is finished." John 19:30



Reading:

**Luke 13:31-35 (NRSV)**

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." <sup>32</sup> He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup> Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' <sup>34</sup> Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup> See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

**Call to Prayer:** 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.

**Silent Prayer**

**Song #231**

**"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"**

*PASSION CHAROLE*

[Extinguish Candle / Silence]



## THE SEVENTH WORD

**Words of Jesus:** "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." Luke 23:46

**Reading:** Luke 2:29-35 (NRSV)

Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant<sup>[a]</sup> in peace,  
according to your word;  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

**A Prayer:** O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; 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 him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

***Worshippers are invited to tie their red ribbon to one of the nails on the cross.***

**Song #** "Were You There?" (St. 3)

[Extinguish Christ Candle / Silence]

**Silent Prayer**

***Strepitus (Loud Sound)***

**Departure:** After a moment of meditation, the congregation is asked to leave in silence. Your offering may be left in the plates provided at the doors.

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