

# Good Friday

St. John Lutheran

April 2, 2021

## Good Friday 2021 – Meditations on the Seven Words

1 -

What would you say? If someone were driving nails, driving spikes through your wrists, what would you say? What would you pray? Maybe some four-letter words come to mind, like: “Make them stop!” I don’t think I’d be praying or even thinking of forgiveness. I’d want them to stop. And I think I’d want those driving spikes into me to feel the pain of spikes driven into them. But that’s not Jesus.

2 -

Picture the bully who bullied you, or the boss who belittled you, the crook who scammed you, or just the passing stranger who targeted you to make you feel small; picture that someone who has intentionally hurt you. If they were to ask you a favor, what would you say? If they were to ask you a favor while the hurt they inflicted is still fresh ... if they were to ask you a favor when your pain level, on a scale of 1-10, is 11, what would you say? “Really?! After what you did, after what you said, you want my help?” Or maybe if no words came to mind, we’d just scowl and turn away. But that’s not Jesus.

3 -

Your pain level, on a scale of 1-10, is 11. You see your mom and your best friend; they’re trying to be there for you, but there’s nothing they can do. They’re horrified, hurting, heart-broken. What do you say? I know when I’m hurting, I’m not the most comforting, encouraging person in the world. So what do you say? “Stop staring; go away; leave me alone; there’s nothing you can do!”? But that’s not Jesus.

4 -

Once, twice, three times I’ve said: “That’s not Jesus.” So what is Jesus about? What makes him tick? His pain level on a scale of 1-10 is up to 17. What keeps him going? He feels the haters hating; on top of that, he feels abandoned by God. So it’s not just the haters cursing him; he feels God, his own Father, cursing him, crushing him, causing him to suffer.

Why? We’ve heard this, we’ve said this again and again this past season: “**We all like sheep have gone astray, but the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**” God was making Jesus pay for our sin. It doesn’t sound right; it doesn’t sound fair. But just as Jesus didn’t turn against his haters, he doesn’t turn against God. Why? How? What is it that keeps him going? Listen for the little word “my.” Even when all he could sense from God was judgment and rejection, Jesus still held to that little word “my.” Even when all his feeling and all his senses, even when all of Truth, said that his God and Father had turned away, turned against him, Jesus didn’t let go of that little word “my.” He had God’s plan and promise - a plan and promise that would deliver him and me and you. And you see it in that little word “my,” Jesus wasn’t about to let go of God or his plan and promise. That’s what Jesus is about, and that’s what kept him going.

5 -

You’ve had a long day, a hard day. You’ve done what you came to do, and now you’re done. You haven’t had a break all day. Now what? It’s time to sit back and relax. But first, to clear your throat, to wet your whistle ...

6 -

Did he gasp it? - "Finished." Did he shout it? "Finished!" We're not told. But Jesus himself wasn't finished, done for, beaten or beat. He held on to this life until he could say: "It is finished." The work, the mission that his Father had assigned him, the mission that he so willingly took on - finished.

For all his life and now on the cross, he faced the haters, and answered with grace. For so much of his life and now on the cross, he heard the guilty beg for mercy, and he answered with mercy. Again and again, and now on the cross, he heard the dying beg for life, and he answered with life. Again and again, and now on the cross, he saw the hurting and the heartbroken, and he answered with love.

That was part of what Jesus was here to do. To answer evil with love, to cover our evil with his love. But that's not all that Jesus came to do. God also sent Jesus here to pay for evil. In the last few weeks, and now on the cross, we've heard how Jesus paid - not just with the pain inflicted by his haters, but with pain inflicted by God, the pain of God's curse - the soul that sins, it shall die. Today we've heard just a taste of that pain; on the cross Jesus drank the whole cup. For you and for me. Why? To satisfy Justice, so that he can answer our hating with grace, so he can answer our begging with mercy, so he can heal our heart-break with love, so he can take us from death to paradise, all so that on the dark days and on the good days, we can call him my - my Lord and my Savior.

Good Friday  
Service on the Seven Words  
April 2, 2021

**WE WELCOME OUR GUESTS** and pray that all who are with us today are blessed by the message of God's Word in our lessons and hymns and by an encouraging and warm welcome. Our worship service is designed to focus us on Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The Holy Spirit does that by exposing our need for Christ and by showing us the wonders of God's grace in Christ: forgiveness and peace, help and hope for life in this world, and life forever with God in heaven. The notes below may be helpful for your worship and time with us today. If you have questions, please ask! We are blessed to have you with us!

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**WE CARE ABOUT YOUR CHILDREN**

We love to have children with us for worship. Baby noises can be beautiful to our Savior who said, "Let the little children come to me." If children are crying loudly, our nursery and Gathering Area (back of the church) are audio-equipped and available for you and your young children. After the children regain their composure, come back so we can all worship together.

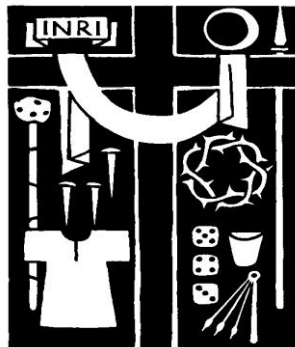
**WE CARE ABOUT YOUR SPECIAL NEEDS**

*Hearing Assistance* for those with hearing aids is provided through our *Hearing Loop*. More information is available from an usher.

A *wheelchair lift* is available for your assistance; please ask an usher.

**OUR FACILITIES**

Restrooms are in our Fellowship Hall, downstairs and to the right of the kitchen.



## THE SEVEN WORDS

Scripture tells us of seven things Jesus said from the cross. All seven are short. All seven are profound, showing the depth of his love for us. Today, our worship revolves around looking at these seven words.

## THE REPROACH PROPHECIES

A reproach is a strong expression of disapproval that often involves discrediting someone, proving that an accusation they made against you was false. In the reproach prophecies, the Lord himself does just that. The people of Israel, in their worldly problems, would have the audacity to claim that God was at fault. God makes it clear to Israel that when their lives fell apart, it was never because *he* left *them*. It was *always* the other way around. We utilize these prophecies today in our confession of sins.

## ORGAN AND PIANO MEDITATION

*“Glory Be to Jesus”*

By Valerie A. Floeter

*“Not All the Blood of Beasts”*

By Valerie A. Floeter

*“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”*

By Valerie A. Floeter

*“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”*

By Valerie A. Floeter

*“Glory Be to Jesus”*

By Robert A. Hobby

*“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”*

By John A. Behnke

*“Passion Chorale”*

By John Carter

*“Meditation on Three Lenten Hymn Tunes”*

By Charles Callahan

## ORDER OF SERVICE

*Please stand*

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

## TOLLING OF THE CHIMES

We toll the chimes 33 times in memory of the years Jesus lived with us before his death on Good Friday.

## CONFESSION OF SINS

*Based on the Reproach Prophecies*

M: Behold the cross, on which hung the Savior of the world.

C: **Come, let us worship him.**

M: The Lord says,

“My people, what wrong have I done to you?

How have I offended you? Answer me!

Through baptism, I led you from slavery to freedom,

But you lead your Savior to the cross.”

C: **Holy God, holy and merciful,  
Holy and just, have mercy upon us.**

M: “I planted you as my fairest vineyard,

I grafted you into the one true vine,

I gave you the water of salvation,

But you give me gall and vinegar to drink,

And leave me thirsting upon a cross.”

C: **Holy God, holy and merciful,  
Holy and just, have mercy upon us.**

M: “I gave you a royal scepter, but you give me a crown of thorns.

I raised you up to newness of life, but you raise me up high upon a cross.”

C: **Holy God, holy and merciful,  
Holy and just, have mercy upon us.**

M: “I give you heaven, and yet you complain about that which you think you lack.

I give you eternity, and yet you worry about this life.

You suffer, and you then blame me,

Though I have proven my love!

Should not I take everything from you?”

**C: Holy God, holy and merciful,  
Holy and just, have mercy upon us.**

M: "What more could I have done for you?  
I gave you my peace and my truth,  
But you fight with each other,  
You cause pain to those I love,  
You dismiss those I chose to lead you.  
Should not my anger burn? Should I not destroy you?"

**C: Holy God, holy and merciful,  
Holy and just, have mercy upon us.**

M: "I come as your brother and sister,  
Hungry, yet you give me no food,  
Thirsty, yet you give me no drink,  
A stranger, and you do not welcome me,  
Naked, and you do not clothe me,  
Sick and in prison, and you do not visit me."

**C: Holy God, holy and merciful,  
Holy and just, have mercy upon us.**

*Silence for personal reflection and confession*

M: The Lord also says,  
"This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel.  
I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.  
I will be their God, and they will be my people.  
For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

**C: Amen.**

M: Behold the cross, on which hung the Savior of the world.

**C: Come, let us worship him.**

**HYMN**

*"Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"*

**Hymn 127**

Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, See him dying on the tree!  
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected; Yes, my soul, 'tis he, 'tis he.  
'Tis the long-expected Prophet, David's Son, yet David's Lord;  
Proofs I see sufficient of it: 'Tis the true and faithful Word.

Tell me, as you hear him groaning, Was there ever grief like his?  
Friends through fear his cause disowning, Foes insulting his distress,  
Many hands were raised to wound him, None would intervene to save,  
But the deepest stroke that pierced him Was the stroke that justice gave.

If you think of sin but lightly Nor suppose the evil great,  
Here you see its nature rightly, Here its guilt may estimate.  
Mark the sacrifice appointed; See who bears the awful load --  
'Tis the Word, the Lord's Anointed, Son of Man and Son of God.

Here we have a firm foundation, Here the refuge of the lost;  
Christ's the rock of our salvation, His the name of which we boast.  
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded, Sacrifice to cancel guilt --  
None shall ever be confounded Who on him their hope have built.

#### THE FIRST WORD

Luke 23:26-34

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. A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. 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!' Then

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

For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. 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. Jesus said, "**Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.**" And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

#### RESPONSE

*"Glory Be to Jesus"*

**Hymn 103**

(Stanzas 1, 2, 4, & 6)

Glory be to Jesus, Who in bitter pains  
Poured for me the lifeblood From his sacred veins.

Grace and life eternal In that blood I find;  
Blest be his compassion, Infinitely kind.



Abel's blood for vengeance Pleaded to the skies,  
But the blood of Jesus For our pardon cries.

Lift we, then, our voices, Swell the mighty flood;  
Louder still and louder Praise the precious blood!

## THE SECOND WORD

Luke 23:38-43

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

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

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

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

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

## INSTRUMENTAL

*"My Song is Love Unknown"*

## THE THIRD WORD

John 19:25-27

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 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,**" and to the disciple, "**Here is your mother.**" From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

## CHOIR

*"The Blood of the Lamb"*

## THE FOURTH WORD

Matthew 27:45-49


From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. 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?**"

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

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. The rest said, "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him.


## PSALM 22 (CW)

*Refrain*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

*Psalm tone*



My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?\*

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?\*

Why are you so far from saving me?

I am a worm and not a man,\*

scorned by men and despised by the people.

All who see me mock me;\*

they hurl insults, shaking their heads:

"He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him.\*

Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."

### *Refrain*

My strength is dried up, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;\*

you lay me in the dust of death.

A band of evil men has encircled me,\*

they have pierced my hands and my feet.

They divide my garments among them\*

and cast lots for my clothing.

But you, O LORD, be not far off;\*

O my Strength, come quickly to help me.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\***

**and to the Holy Spirit,**

**as it was in the beginning,\***

**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### *Refrain*

**THE FIFTH WORD**

**John 19:28, 29**

Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "**I am thirsty.**" 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.

**INSTRUMENTAL**

*"O Dearest Jesus"*

**THE SIXTH WORD**

**John 19:30**

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

**RESPONSE**

*"Oh, Perfect Life of Love"*

**Hymn 138**

(Stanzas 1, 2, 4, & 5)

Oh, perfect life of love! All, all is finished now,  
All that he left his throne above To do for us below.

No work is left undone Of all the Father willed;  
His toil, his sorrows, one by one, The Scriptures have fulfilled.

And on his thorn-crowned head And on his sinless soul  
Our sins in all their guilt were laid That he might make us whole.

In perfect love he dies; For me he dies, for me!  
O all-atoning Sacrifice, You died to make me free!

**THE SEVENTH WORD**

**Luke 23:33-46**

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. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One."

The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### RESPONSE

*"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"*

**Hymn 105**

(Stanzas 5-7)

What language shall I borrow To thank you, dearest Friend,  
For this, your dying sorrow, Your pity without end?  
Oh, make me yours forever, And keep me strong and true;  
Lord, let me never, never Outlive my love for you.

My Savior, then be near me When death is at my door,  
And let your presence cheer me; Forsake me nevermore!  
When soul and body languish, Oh, leave me not alone,  
But take away my anguish By virtue of your own!

Lord, be my consolation, My shield when I must die;  
Remind me of your passion When my last hour draws nigh.  
My eyes will then behold you, Upon your cross will dwell;  
My heart will then enfold you - Who dies in faith dies well!

## BIDDING PRAYER

The *bidding prayer* is an ancient form of prayer in which a minister bids or invites the congregation to pray.

M: 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*

M: 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.**

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

### *Silent prayer*

M: 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.**

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

### *Silent prayer*

M: 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.**

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

### *Silent prayer*

M: 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.**

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

*Silent prayer*

M: 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.**

M: 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*

M: 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.**

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

*Silent prayer*

M: 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.**

M: Let us pray for all who suffer under cross and trial:

*Silent prayer*

M: 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.**

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

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

*A moment of silence.*

#### BURIAL LESSON

**John 19:31-42**

Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."

Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

CLOSING HYMN

*"Abide with Me"*

**Hymn 588**

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide.  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me!

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
Earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away.  
Change and decay in all around I see;  
O thou who changest not, abide with me!

Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,  
But kind and good, with healing in thy wings,  
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev'ry plea;  
Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.

Thou on my head in early youth didst smile,  
And though rebellious and perverse meanwhile,  
Thou hast not left me oft as I left thee.  
On to the close, O Lord, abide with me.

I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour.  
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?  
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me!

I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.  
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!



*The congregation may remain for prayer and meditation before leaving silently.  
If you wish to speak to the pastor, please go to his office (door near the piano).*

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**OFFERING**

*If you prefer online giving, you may scan  
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**Acknowledgements**

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***We welcome you to come and worship with us again.  
Easter Sunday Services at 6:30, 9:00, & 11am.***