



# CROSSROADS

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Connecting People • Igniting Hearts • Transforming Lives

## The Seven Last Words of Christ

*Tenebrae, which is 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 and readings from Scripture.*

**Welcome to Good Friday and Tenebrae Worship**

**Pastor Scott Walters**

**Opening Words**

**Sydney**

### THE FIRST WORD

**The first of the last words of Christ from the cross: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Luke 23:34.**

**Reading: Psalm 51:1-14**

*Prayer on the First Word from the Cross*

**Almighty God, to whom your crucified Son prayed for the forgiveness of those who did not know what they were doing, grant that we, too, may be included in that prayer. Whether we sin out of ignorance or intention, be merciful to us and grant us your acceptance and peace: in the name of Jesus Christ, our suffering Savior. Amen.**

*[First candle is extinguished]*

### THE SECOND WORD

**The second of the last words of Christ from the cross: "Today you will be with me in Paradise" Luke 23:43**

**Reading: John 14:1-6**

*Prayer on the Second Word from the Cross*

**O Lord Jesus Christ, who promised to the repentant the joy of paradise, enable us by the Holy Spirit to repent and to receive your grace in this world and in the world to come. Amen.**

*[Second candle is extinguished]*



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### THE THIRD WORD

The third of the last words of Christ from the cross: "Dear woman, here is your son." "Here is your mother." John 19:26-27

Reading: Mark 3:31-35

*Prayer on the Third Word from the Cross*

**O Blessed Savior, who in your hours of greatest suffering expressed compassion for your mother and made arrangements for her care, grant that we who seek to follow your example may show our concern for the needs of others, reaching out to provide for those who suffer in our human family. Hear this our prayer for your mercy's sake. Amen.**

*[Third candle is extinguished]*

### THE FOURTH WORD

The fourth of the last words of Christ from the cross: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Matthew 27:46

Reading: Psalm 22:1-11

*Prayer on the Fourth Word from the Cross*

**Almighty God, who forsook your Son upon the cross showing the world your judgment upon human sin and guilt, grant us, upon hearing his cry, the grace to know and believe that we will never be forsaken, that he is present with us even to the end of the age: for the sake of Jesus Christ who bore our sins on the cross. Amen.**

*[Fourth candle is extinguished]*

### THE FIFTH WORD

The fifth of the last words of Christ from the cross: "I am thirsty." John 19:28

Reading: Isaiah 55:1-5

*Prayer on the Fifth Word from the Cross*

**O blessed Savior, whose lips were dry and whose throat was parched, grant us the water of life that we who thirst after righteousness may find it quenched by your love and mercy, leading us to bring this same relief to others. Amen.**

*[Fifth candle is extinguished]*



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### THE SIXTH WORD

The sixth of the last words of Christ from the cross: "It is finished." John 19:30

Reading: Luke 13:31-35

*Prayer on the Sixth Word from the Cross*

**O Lord Jesus Christ, who finished the work that you were sent to do, enable us by your Holy Spirit to be faithful to our call. Grant us strength to bear our crosses and endure our sufferings, even unto death. Enable us to live and love so faithfully that we also become good news to the world, joining your witness. O Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

*[Sixth candle is extinguished]*

### THE SEVENTH WORD

The seventh and final word of Christ from the cross: "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." Luke 23:46

Reading: Luke 2:29-35

*Prayer on the Seventh Word from the Cross*

**Father, into whose hands your Son Jesus Christ commended his spirit, grant that we too, following his example, may in all of life and at the moment of our death entrust our lives into your faithful hands of love. In the name of Jesus who gave his life for us all. Amen.**

*[Seventh candle is extinguished]*

Hymn: "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

Benediction

Pastor Scott Walters



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