



SOLEMN MEDITATION ON
THE SEVEN WORDS FROM THE CROSS

GOOD FRIDAY

10 April 2020

The Cathedral Church of St. David
Proclaiming Jesus as Lord in the Heart of Hobart

Exhortation:

Grace and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Paul said that he resolved to know nothing apart from Jesus Christ and him crucified. On this most solemn day our thoughts should also be focused on him who died that we might live, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep.

Let us hear again his words from the Cross, words of forgiveness, salvation and compassion; of anguish, suffering, victory, of faith and hope. Let us hear again of God's love for the world shown in the gift of his Son. Let us return again to Calvary.

Hymn: My song is love unknown

AHB 256 Text: Samuel Crossman, Tune: Love Unknown

My song is love unknown,
My Saviour's love to me;
Love to the loveless shown,
That they might lovely be.
O who am I, that for my sake
My Lord should take, frail flesh
and die?

He came from His blest throne
Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none
The longed for Christ would know:
But O! my Friend, my Friend indeed,
Who at my need His life did spend.

Sometimes they strew His way,
And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King:
Then "Crucify!" is all their breath,
And for His death they thirst and cry.

Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
He gave the blind their sight,
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
Themselves displease, and 'gainst
Him rise.

They rise and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they saved,
The Prince of life they slay,
Yet cheerful He to suffering goes,
That He His foes from thence
might free.

In life, no house, no home
My Lord on earth might have;
In death no friendly tomb
But what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heav'n was His home;
But mine the tomb wherein He lay.

Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine;
Never was love, dear King!
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.

The minister carries the cross from the Hope Chapel.

The Cross, purple robe and the crown of thorns rest in the Sanctuary

Poem: And a Good Friday was had by all

Bruce Dawe

*You men there keep those women back
and God Almighty he laid down
on the crossed timber and old Silenus
my offsider looked at me as if to say
nice work for soldiers,
 your mind's not your own
once you sign that dotted line Ave Caesar
and all that malarkey Imperator Rex*

*well this Nazarene
didn't make it any easier
really - not like the ones
who kick up a fuss so you can
do your block and take it out on them
Silenus held the spike steady and I let fly
with the sledge-hammer, not looking
on the downswing trying hard not to hear
over the women's wailing the bones give way
the iron shocking the dumb wood.*

*Orders is orders, I said after it was over
nothing personal you understand
- we had a drill-sergeant once
 thought he was God
but he wasn't a patch on you*

*then we hauled on the ropes
and he rose in the hot air
like a diver just leaving the springboard, arms spread
so it seemed
over the whole damned creation
over the big men
 who must have had it in for him
and the curious ones
 who'll watch anything if it's free
with only the usual women caring anywhere
and a blind man in tears.*

1. The Word of Forgiveness (Luke 23: 32-34)

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.

Daniel 9:9-10

The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him; we have not obeyed the Lord our God or kept the laws he gave us through his servants the prophets.

Prayer

O God and Father of us all, who heard the prayer of Jesus Christ, your Son, that those who nailed him to the cross should be forgiven; we thank you for this assurance of a love that even in our ignorance and sin always pleads on our behalf. Write this prayer on our hearts that we may learn to love as we are loved, to forgive as we are forgiven. **Amen.**

2. The Word of Salvation (Luke 23: 35-43)

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."

John 14:1-6

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, the friend of sinners, who taught us of a Father's love that rejoiced in the return of the prodigal son, and even in the hour of your death gave a repentant sinner the promise of your continued presence: we thank you for this word of reassurance that death cannot separate us from your love, and we pray that as we grow in understanding of your cross, we may draw nearer to our eternal home. **Amen.**

3. The Word of Compassion (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 near by, 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.

2 Corinthians 1:3-5

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.

Prayer

Dear Lord, who has blessed us with the gift of family life, that we may learn to love and care for others: we praise you for the example of Jesus Christ our Lord who even when deserted and betrayed by his closest friends, took time to consider his mother. Open our eyes to care for our family and our brothers and sisters in the faith. Stir our hearts to serve all who are called to walk in the way of the cross, in the way of love. **Amen.**

4. The Word of Anguish (Matthew 27: 45-46)

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?"

Romans 8:37-39

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Prayer

O God whose love never fails us, and from whom nothing can separate us: we thank you for the glory of your Son's obedience that carried him through the loneliness of his passion, and we pray that in the hour of our trial, when all is dark and there is no vision, we may be strengthened in our faith, knowing that the Spirit of him who suffered alone will never leave us to endure alone.

Amen.

Hymn: Ah, Holy Jesus, how have you offended

Tune: Herzliebster Jesu (AHB 254)

Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended,
that man to judge Thee hath in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,
O most afflicted.

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.
'twas I, Lord, Jesus, I it was denied thee!
I crucified thee.

Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;
the slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered;
for man's atonement, while he nothing heedeth,
God intercedeth.

For me, kind Jesus, was thy incarnation,
thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation;
thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion,
for my salvation.

Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee,
I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee,
think on thy pity and thy love unswerving,
not my deserving.

5. The Word of Suffering (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.

Hebrews 2: 9-18

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me."

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil-- and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Prayer

Son of Man, who entered our mortal life to be one of us in our human ways: we bless you for the love which stooped down to the level of our need; and although the reward of your self-giving was the cross, we rejoice in knowing that through grief and pain and thirst, the victory was won in our humanity, and the glorious hope of our salvation is in the one who is both God and man.
Amen.

6. The Word of Victory (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.

Isaiah 53:1-12

Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? 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. 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.

Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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.

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. 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. 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.

Prayer

Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. We praise you, Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, because you submitted to the discipline of a son's obedience, and perfectly revealed in your death the Father's nature of love. We praise you, Lord Jesus Christ, Son of Man, because as our champion you did enter the battle against evil for our sake, and won the perfect victory over its power. We praise you, Lord Jesus Christ, Servant of God, because by your one sacrifice you made us one with God. For your finished work we thank you. **Amen.**

7. The Word of Faith and Hope (Luke 23: 44-47)

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. The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man."

1 Peter 2: 21-24

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

Prayer

Abba, Father, in whom the Saviour trusted as in life so in death: we bless you for this last word which marked the completion of Jesus' work on the cross. The end achieved, grant us a strong faith, that when our life on earth draws to its close, we may not fear to surrender it into your hands as our all-wise and all-loving Father; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn: O sacred head, sore wounded

AHB 255 Tune: Passion Chorale

O sacred head sore wounded, with grief and shame weighed down; O kingly head surrounded with thorns thine only crown. Death's pallor now comes o'er thee, the glow of life decays; yet hosts of heaven adore thee and tremble as they gaze.	In this thy bitter Passion, good Shepherd, think of me with thy most sweet compassion, unworthy though I be: beneath thy cross abiding for ever would I rest, in thy dear love confiding, and with thy presence blest.
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What language shall I borrow
to praise thee, heavenly friend,
for this thy dying sorrow,
thy pity without end?
O agony and dying!
O love to sinners free!
Jesus, all grace supplying,
turn thou thy face on me.

Be thou my consolation,
my shield, when I must die;
remind me of thy passion
when my last hour draws nigh.
Mine eyes shall then behold thee,
upon thy cross shall dwell,
my heart by faith enfold thee;
who dieth thus, dies well.

A Meditation on the Cross

Litany of Reconciliation

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

From the Apostle Paul's letter to Rome

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class,
Father forgive

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own.
Father forgive

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth.
Father forgive

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,
Father forgive

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee,
Father forgive

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children,
Father forgive

The pride that leads us to trust in ourselves not in God,
Father forgive

Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

From the Apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians

Collects

Prayers based on the Book of Common Prayer

Almighty God, look with mercy on this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and to be 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 for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: receive our prayers and supplications, which we offer before you for all people in your holy Church, that all its members, in their vocation and ministry, may truly and godly serve you; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

O merciful God, you have made all people and you hate nothing that you have made, nor desire the death of sinners, but rather that they should turn and live: have mercy on all who have not known you, or who deny the faith of Christ crucified; take from them all ignorance, hardness of heart, and contempt of your word; and so fetch them home, blessed Lord, to your fold, that we may be made one flock under one shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

A 'Covid Collect'. Rev Lee Gatiss, Director of Church Society, England.

Heavenly Father, our ever-present help in trouble, our fortress and our God: calm the anxious fears of all who turn to you; give strength and healing to those who are sick, and courage and skill to those who care for them; grant wisdom and clarity to those in authority; and humble us all to call upon you that we may be saved not only in this life, but also for that which is to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Let us pray for the coming of the kingdom in the words our Saviour taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory
are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

Hymn: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

AHB 258 Text Isaac Watts Tune: Rockingham

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down;
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small:
love so amazing, so divine
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Benediction:

The Minister

Go safe in God's love, in the light of the gospel of Jesus his Son
and the strength of the Spirit and live a new life to his glory.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

All readings in this service are from the New International Version.

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