

Order of Service

Commentary: Pastor enters in silence.

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, your Son was led forth into the pain of the cross for the salvation of the world: Help us to enter into his passion and death, forgive us all our sin, and bring us to eternal salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit forever. Amen.

Leader: O Savior of the world, who by your cross and precious blood has redeemed us, Save us and help us, we pray. Amen.

(Silence)

Our service will be focused on the last 7 words of Christ. After each word a light will be extinguished so that at the end our service will be in darkness just as darkness covered the land at Jesus' death.

THE FIRST WORD: “Father forgive them for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34).

The Homily

(Silence) The candle is extinguished

The Prayer

Leader: Most blessed Jesus, through your suffering, you paid for our sins. Give us a deep hatred of sin. Grant us a tender spirit toward sinners, and help us to forgive those who have sinned against us. Teach us to confess our own sin and to seek reconciliation with those whom we have sinned against, through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(Silence)

Leader: Savior of the world, who by your cross and precious blood has redeemed us, Save us and help us, we pray. Amen.

(Silence)

THE SECOND WORD: “Truly I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise” (Luke 23:43).

The Homily

(Silence) The candle is extinguished

The Prayer

Leader: Most blessed Lord Jesus, you forgave the thief on the cross. Look on us with mercy and compassion. Give us a strong faith in you, a humble remembrance of our sins, and the strength to confess you before others, and so wash us in your blood that we may share in your glory forever, through Jesus Christ, your only beloved Son, and our Lord.

People: Amen.

(Silence)

Leader: O Savior of the world, who by your cross and precious blood has redeemed us, Save us and help us, we pray. Amen.

(Silence)

Song “Amazing Grace”

THE THIRD WORD: “Woman behold your Son!” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold your mother!” (John 19:26–27).

The Homily

(Silence) The candle is extinguished

The Prayer

Leader: O most Holy Lord Jesus, you left us an example of holy love by leaving your mother in the care of the disciple. Pour out your blessings on our homes and relationships including our family of Christ in our churches. Comfort the homeless, and move us to act tenderly toward them, and bring us to your home above, where we with you and all the saints may worship and adore you our Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit forever. Amen.

(Silence)

Leader: O Savior of the world, who by your cross and precious blood has redeemed us, Save us and help us, we pray. Amen.

THE FOURTH WORD: “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” (Matt. 27:46).

The Homily

(Silence) The candle is extinguished

The Prayer

Leader: O blessed Lord Jesus, you bitterly suffered alone on the cross and experienced the anguish of separation. Come, and be with us in times of despair and loneliness, and transform our sadness into fellowship with you. We pray also for our sisters and brothers throughout the world who experience alienation, oppression, and loneliness especially at this time of social distancing and isolation. Heal the sick, comfort the grieving and give up to those who have lost hope during this pandemic. Comfort and support them with your presence, and bring them to a place of rest in you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

(Silence)

Leader: O Savior of the world, who by your cross and precious blood has redeemed us, Save us and help us, we pray. Amen.

THE FIFTH WORD: "I thirst" (John 19:28).

The Homily

(Silence) The candle is extinguished

The Prayer

Leader: O most blessed Jesus, you who thirsted and experienced pain for us. Kindle in our hearts a thirst for you that we may love and serve you and lead others to find their rest in you. Remember, O Lord, all the sick and dying and deliver them from pain, granting them a blessed ending through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit forever. Amen.

(Silence)

Leader: O Savior of the world, who by your cross and precious blood has redeemed us, Save us and help us we pray. Amen.

(Silence)

Hymn – My song is love unknown.

THE SIXTH WORD: “It is finished” (John 19:30).

Homily

(Silence) The candle is extinguished

The Prayer

Leader: O most blessed Savior, you proclaimed the perfect fulfillment of your work and bowed your wounded head in completion. Work in us the grace of your salvation that we might live in union with you. And whatever good work you have begun in us, continue it throughout our days that we might be full of your calling and be patient in doing well to others through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever. Amen.

(Silence)

Leader: O Savior of the world, who by your cross and precious blood has redeemed us, Save us and help us, we pray. Amen.

THE SEVENTH WORD: “Father into thy hands I commit my spirit!” (Luke 23:46).

The Homily

(Silence) The candle is extinguished

The Prayer

Leader: O most blessed Savior, you gave up your precious life to atone for sin and conquer the powers of evil. Grant us the power to live in your name. Do not forsake us in our hour of need.

Confirm our faith, deepen our repentance, and strengthen us with your body and blood, and may we come to that heavenly rest where you dwell forever with your Father in the fellowship of the Spirit. Amen.

Leader: O Savior of the world, who by your cross and precious blood has redeemed us, Save us and help us, we pray. Amen.

(Silence)

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

THE CLOSING PRAYER

O most blessed Jesus, Son of the living God: See us poor sinners through your passion and death, forgive us our sins which we have committed against you and our neighbor. Give us eternal life and everlasting joy through the blood of your cross. We give ourselves to you in faith and submission. Keep us always as your own and grant us eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(The people leave in silence.)