



Wesley House
Cambridge

Good Friday: Jesus' seven last words from the cross

Introduction

Good Friday is usually marked around the world with processions and gatherings that tell the story of Christ's passion. Today is always a day of sorrow, and these hours between noon and three on which Jesus is said to have hung on the cross, are often marked by prayer and meditation on his seven last words, compiled from the four gospel accounts.

This service is being livestreamed from Wesley House on facebook at 2pm on Good Friday 2020. You can use this order of service to join with the small community resident in Cambridge or to pray with your own household at a time of your choosing.

Prayer of approach

Gracious and eternal God,
You hate nothing that you have made.
As Christ looked with love upon all those gathered at the foot of his cross
Look with mercy on all the human race this day - in all our need.
That we may know your power to save - even in this hour.
Through the same Lord Jesus Christ
Amen.

A song, such as this may be sung or listened to online:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I81JgRQIAwY>

***O sacred Head, sore wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down;
how scornfully surrounded
with thorns, thine only crown!
How pale thou art with anguish,
With sore abuse and scorn!
How does that visage languish
Which once was bright as morn!***

***O Lord of life and glory,
What bliss till now was thine!
I read the wondrous story,
I joy to call thee mine.
Thy grief and thy compassion were all for sinners' gain;
mine, mine was the transgression,
but thine the deadly pain.***

1. Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing

READING **Luke 23: 33-34**: When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

Reflection

Silence

A song such as this may be sung, verse by verse after each reflection, or listened to online:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LRaFdFkOVyY>

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

2. Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise

READING: **Luke 23: 39-43**: One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Reflection

Silence

*Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?*

3. Woman, here is your son....Here is your mother

READING: **John 19:25-27**: Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Reflection

Silence

***Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?***

4. My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

READING: **Mark 15:33-34**: When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Reflection

Silence

***Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?***

5. I am thirsty

READING: **John 19:28**: After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture), "I am thirsty."

Reflection

Silence

***Were you there when he begged them for a drink?
Were you there when he begged them for a drink?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble
Were you there when he begged them for a drink?***

6. It is finished

READING: **John 19:29-30** : A bowl was there, full of cheap wine mixed with vinegar, so a sponge was soaked in it, put on a stick of hyssop and lifted up to his lips. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished".

Reflection

Silence

*Were you there when the Scriptures were fulfilled?
Were you there when the Scriptures were fulfilled?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble
Were you there when the Scriptures were fulfilled?*

7. Father, into your hands I commend my spirit

READING: **Luke 23:46:** Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

Reflection

Silence

*Were you there when my Jesus breathed his last?
Were you there when my Jesus breathed his last?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when my Jesus breathed his last?*

Closing

God sent his Son into the world
Not to condemn the world
But that, through him, the world might be saved.
Let us therefore pray for all people everywhere according to their need.

Silence

The Lord hears our prayer:
Thanks be to God.

A song such as the one below may be sung or accessed online:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mDkuxElcpdI>

***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.*

Christ whose bitter agony was watched by those who loved him,
Enable us to follow their example of unflinching love;
That, being steadfast in the face of all that appals us,
We may also know the face of your saving love.
Amen.