

cross, so that in laying our sins before you, we may be assured of your forgiveness, live with you always in Paradise, love one another, worship you gladly, thirst for your righteousness, abide by your will, and glorify your name. In Christ's holy name we pray.

All: Amen.

(DURING THE SINGING OF THE CLOSING HYMN, THE PARTICIPANTS ARE INVITED TO PLACE THEIR NAILS AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS)

***Hymn: "Were You There?"**

African American Spiritual

Arranged by Melva Wilson Costen

**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?**

**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?**

**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?**

**Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?**

THE PEOPLE DEPART IN SILENCE. IN THE DARKNESS OF THE TOMB, MEDITATE ON THE WONDERS OF GOD'S REDEEMING LOVE AND OUR UNWORTHINESS.

**IN THE SHADOW OF THE CROSS:
A SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR GOOD FRIDAY**

**CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS**

An asterisk () indicates to stand if you are able.*

***Hymn of Approach: "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"**

Words by Elizabeth C. Clephane

Arranged by Frederick C. Maker

**Beneath the cross of Jesus
I fain would take my stand –
The shadow of a mighty Rock
Within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness,
A rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat,
And the burden of the day.**

**Upon the cross of Jesus
Mine eye at times can see
The very dying form of One
Who suffered there for me,
And from my stricken heart with tears
Two wonders I confess –
The wonders of redeeming love
And my unworthiness**

**I take O cross, thy shadow
For my abiding place;
I ask not other sunshine than
The sunshine of His face;
Content to let the world go by,
To know no gain nor loss;
My sinful self my only shame,
My glory all, the cross.**

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***Call to Worship (Responsive) [Isaiah 53:4-6]**

Tim: Surely, he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.

People: Yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God and afflicted.

Tim: But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities;

People: Upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed.

Tim: All we like sheep have gone astray;

People: We have tuned every one to his own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

***Hymn: "Ah, Holy Jesus"**

Words by Johann Heerman

Arranged by Johann Cruger

**Ah, holy Jesus, how have You offended,
That mortal judgment has on You descended?
By foes derided, by Your own rejected,
O most afflicted!**

**Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon You?
It is my treason, Lord, that has undone You.
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied You;
I crucified You.**

**For me, dear Jesus, was Your incarnation,
Your mortal sorrow, and Your life's oblation,
Your death of anguish and Your bitter passion,
For my salvation.**

**Therefore, dear Jesus, since I cannot pay You,
I do adore You, and will ever praise You.
Think on Your pity, and Your love unswerving,
Not my deserving.**

Prayer (Unison)

O Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. As you bore our sins in your body, bear us now to the shadow of your cross. As our wretchedness pierced the very heart of God with our shouts to crucify you, pierce our hearts with your words of mercy. Where we turn a blind eye, give us clarity of vision. Where we turn a deaf ear, grant us a willingness to listen. Where our

(AT THIS POINT IN THE WORSHIP SERVICE, THE PEOPLE ARE INVITED TO COME TO THE FRONT OF THE SANCTUARY AND TO TAKE THEIR PLACE AROUND THE CROSS. PARTICIPANTS ARE ASKED TO BRING THEIR BULLETIN AND THE NAIL THEY WERE GIVEN AS THEY ARRIVED.)

***LITANY OF THE NAILS**

Tim: O Christ, we gather in the shadow of your cross, not as mere spectators, but as co-conspirators in your death. In your sojourn here on earth, you offered good news to the poor, release to the captives, sight to the blind, and freedom to the oppressed.

People: But we offered up hearts of stone and nails of steel.

Tim: O Christ, we gather in the shadow of your cross, not as mere spectators, but as co-conspirators in your death. In your great mercy, you offered yourself as the Way, the Truth, and the Life so that all might come to the Father through you.

People: But we offered up hearts of stone and nails of steel.

Tim: O Christ, we gather in the shadow of your cross, not as mere spectators, but as co-conspirators in your death. In your compassion you offered us a glimpse of your kingdom's love, justice, kindness, and faithfulness, and you called us to follow you.

People: But we offered up hearts of stone and nails of steel.

Tim: O Christ, we gather in the shadow of your cross, not as mere spectators, but as co-conspirators in your death. When we would not follow, you offered your life that we might live. Love so amazing, so divine, demands our souls, our lives, our all.

People: But we offered hearts of stone and nails of steel.

Tim: O Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world,

People: Have mercy on us.

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Tim: O Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world,

People: Hear our prayer

(After a brief silence, the leader continues)

Tim: Most loving and gracious God, as you gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ, so may we give ourselves to you. As Jesus offered up his life on the cross to bear our iniquities in his body, so do we acknowledge that we offered up the nails that held him there. Grant that we may always hear his seven words of love from the

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minds are closed, grant us the gift of understanding. Help us to embrace the truth that in the depths of your suffering we witness the depth of your love, and make us ever more willing to be embraced by you. O Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world, hear our prayer. Amen.

Jesus' Seven Last Words
(A Tenebrae Service)

FATHER, FORGIVE THEM
REFLECTION:

Luke 23:33-34a
Tim Reeves

AS THE FIRST CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED:

Tim: In the shadow of your cross, O Christ,

People: We confess that we have not welcomed the coming of your kingdom.

TODAY YOU WILL BE WITH ME
REFLECTION:

Luke 23:39-43
Tim Reeves

AS THE SECOND CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED:

Tim: In the shadow of your cross, O Christ,

People: We confess that we have forgotten our covenant with you.

HERE IS YOUR MOTHER
REFLECTION:

John 19:25b-27a
Tim Reeves

AS THE THIRD CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED:

Tim: In the shadow of your cross, O Christ,

People: We confess that we have not loved one another.

WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?
REFLECTION:

Mark 15:33-34
Tim Reeves

AS THE FOURTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED:

Tim: In the shadow of your cross, O Christ,

People: We confess that we have rejected you.

I AM THIRSTY.
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AS THE FIFTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED:

Tim: In the shadow of your cross, O Christ,

People: We confess that we have not thirsted for righteousness.

IT IS FINISHED.

REFLECTION:

John 19:29-30a

Tim Reeves

AS THE SIXTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED:

Tim: In the shadow of your cross, O Christ:

People: We confess that we have not recognized your sovereignty.

I COMMEND MY SPIRIT.

REFLECTION:

Luke 23:46

Tim Reeves

AS THE SEVENTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED:

Tim: In the shadow of your cross, O Christ,

We confess that we have not lived wholly for you.

***Hymn: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"**

Words by Isaac Watts

Arranged by Lowell Mason

**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.**

AS THE FIFTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED:

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