

Call to Worship (Isaiah 53:4–6)

Leader: Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows,

People: yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.

Leader: But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities;

People: the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Leader: We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way;

People: and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

HYMN: What Wondrous Love

2. Litany of Remembrance

Leader: Let us remember Jesus, who, though fully divine, came to dwell among us, fully human. Let us remember his teachings of love and his life of humility.

People: Jesus, thank you for showing us the way.

Leader: Let us remember Jesus, who loved all people and who warned us of the cost of pride and selfishness. Let us remember that he taught us to love one another, to care for the weak, to feed the hungry, and to ease the suffering of others.

People: Jesus, thank you for showing us the way.

Leader: Let us remember that, having fully embraced his impending suffering and rejection, he set his face toward Jerusalem to fulfill his promise, and that he urged his disciples to follow with the same determination.

People: Jesus, thank you for showing us the way.

Leader: Let us remember that Jesus sought the fulfillment of mercy and chose the path of peril, even unto death upon the cross.

People: Jesus, thank you for showing us the way.

Leader: Jesus, thank you for showing us the way. For those times when we have sought safety rather than righteousness, hear our prayer.

People: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For those times when fear has caused us to shun those not like ourselves, hear our prayer.

People: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For those times when we have not heard the pleas of the needy or the cries of your Creation, hear our prayer.

People: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For those times when our search for personal fulfillment has caused us to follow false gods, hear our prayer.

People: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For those times when we have trusted in the power of the rich rather than the meekness of the example of Christ, hear our prayer.

People: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For those times when our own self-interest has caused us to dismiss the needs and pain of others, hear our prayer.

People: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Let us remember Jesus, who humbled himself to obedient death upon the cross. Through him, God calls us to forsake the bondage of our sins and beckons us into freedom. **Amen.**

3. CHOIR-INVITATION TO THE CROSS

The First Word

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34)

Prayer on the First Word: Creator God, it is in your voice that we hear the call to forgive -- that this call is beyond our human understanding but through your example, we are to feel your presence and your love for us and for others. We do not know what we are doing, yet you surpass our human understanding, standing before us and calling each one of us your child, always.

4. CHOIR- RESPONSE TO THE FIRST WORD, "FORGIVE"

5. HYMN- FORGIVE THEM, O FORGIVE THEM

The Second Word

"Today you will be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:43)

Prayer on the Second Word: Almighty God, graciously behold this your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed into the hands of sinners -- to forgive -- to welcome -- and to remind us each that we will one day see you in your fullness as you see us."

6. CHOIR-RESPONSE TO THE SECOND WORD, "PARADISE"

The Third Word

"Woman, behold your son. Son, behold your mother." (John 19:26-27)

Prayer on the Third Word: "Loving God, you never leave us alone or abandoned. Your love for us is greater than our human hearts will ever understand. We come to you this day as people in need of this reminder -- the reminder that you are with us through all time regardless of our own doings."

7. CHOIR-RESPONSE TO THE THIRD WORD, "MOTHER"

8. HYMN- O WOMAN, NOW BEHOLD YOUR SON

The Fourth Word

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46)

Prayer on the Fourth Word: "Healing God, it is through our doubt and our questioning that you find us. Your love and grace poured out for us is overwhelming at times as you never stop calling us home and you never stop calling us your beloved and precious child."

9. CHOIR-RESPONSE TO THE FOURTH WORD, "FORSAKEN"

The Fifth Word

"I am thirsty." (John 19:28)

Prayer on the Fifth Word: Comforter God, as a dry barren land thirsts for you, our souls thirst for you. As the summer rains replenish the desert, help us to quench our thirst from your life giving waters and not from the world around us.

10. CHOIR-RESPONSE TO THE FIFTH WORD, "THIRST"

11. SOLO-ARIA, "O LOOK UPON THE CROSS"

The Sixth Word

"It is finished." (John 19:3)

Prayer on the Sixth Word: Gracious God, grant unto us, and to all your servants, the grace of perseverance unto the end; in the power of Him who for the finishing of your work laid down His life, even your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord.

12. CHOIR-RESPONSE TO THE SIXTH WORD, "FINISHED"

13. HYMN- WHAT WONDROUS LOVE (1 VERSE)

The Seventh Word

"Into your hands I commit my spirit." (Luke 23:46)

Prayer on the Seventh Word: Everlasting God, as Jesus gave up his very life in obedience to your will, help us to give up those things that would keep us from following you more completely. Help us to grow in community and love as we commit more and more of ourselves to you.

14. CHOIR-RESPONSE TO THE SEVENTH WORD, "COMMITMENT"

*Prayers 1-4 by the Rev. Dr. Kelly Jackson Brooks; Prayers 5-7 by Rev. Greg Kennedy