

GOOD FRIDAY

THE SEVEN LAST WORDS

March 29, 2024 at 7 pm

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH IN SOMERVILLE

A PARISH OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NEW JERSEY

158 West High Street, Somerville, NJ 08876

908.722.1250 • stjohnsomerville.org

Welcome to St. John's Church

We are glad you are here, and we invite you to enter fully into worship this evening. When you enter our church with its crenelated tower, projecting gargoyles, stout buttresses, and warmly recognized big red doors, we hope you will see what St. John's is all about: worship, community, and service. As we strive to live out the two great commandments of our Lord, to love the Lord our God and our neighbor, we hope you will find St. John's to become more and more your spiritual home where so many others have already found a home. Help us to make this a place where God's grace is freely shared by all.

Welcome and Offering

All are welcome to make a gift and offering in thanksgiving to God for the many blessings we have received. To take advantage of our electronic giving options, please follow the QR code with your capable electronic device, or visit simplechurchgiving.net/app/giving/st158149



Good Friday

Good Friday is the middle of the *Triduum*, the three-days' space starting with Maundy Thursday and ending at the Great Vigil of Easter on Holy Saturday. The name "Good" refers to an old understanding of the word as "pious" or "holy." Today is also known as "Holy Friday" or "Great Friday." The Eucharist is not celebrated on this day.

The Gospels record seven "words" or sayings that Jesus spoke from the cross as he was being crucified. A three-hour midday service with special prayers and sermons around these sayings is said to have been used in Peru following a devastating earthquake in the seventeenth century. Since then, many Anglican, Protestant, and Roman Catholic communities have used this form to commemorate Good Friday.

We invite you this evening to pray, sing, listen to the silence, and reflect as we contemplate Christ's mighty act of redemption on the Cross.

Cover: Christ Crucified between the Two Thieves: The Three Crosses, Rembrandt (Rembrandt van Rijn) 1653

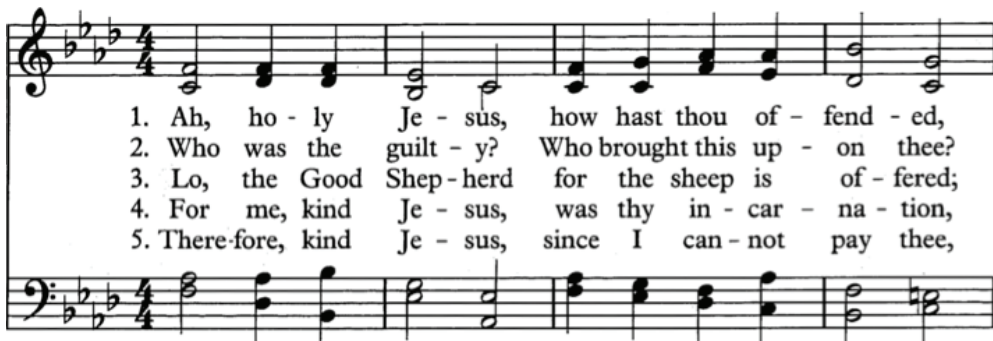
THE SEVEN LAST WORDS

Please stand and sing

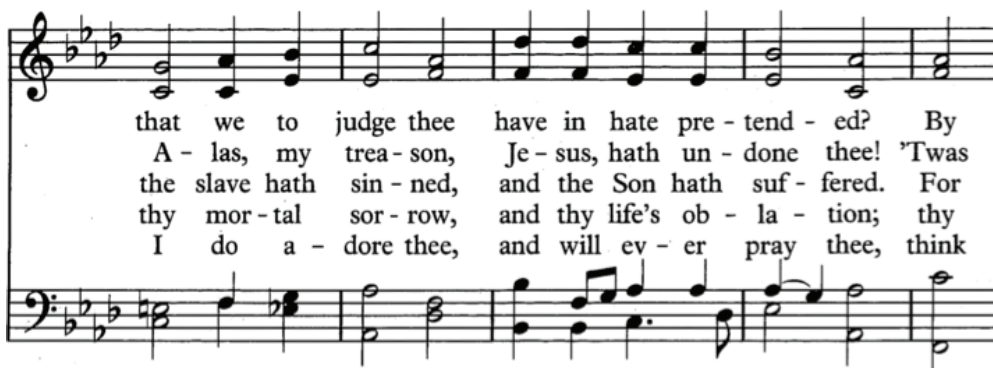
HYMN

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

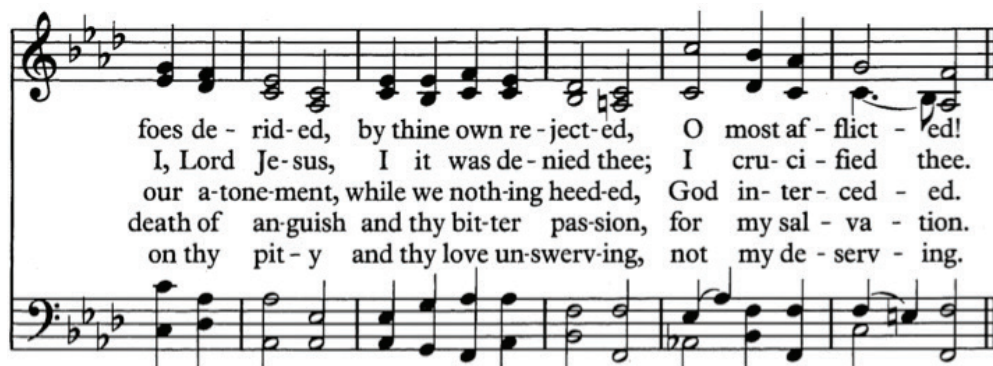
Text: Johann Herrman, 1630, tr. Robert Bridges, alt.; Tune: Johann Crüger, 1640



1. Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed,
2. Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee?
3. Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered;
4. For me, kind Je - sus, was thy in - car - na - tion,
5. There-fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee,



that we to judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By
A - las, my trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee! 'Twas
the slave hath sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered. For
thy mor - tal sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy
I do a - dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee, think



foes de - rid - ed, by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed!
I, Lord Je - sus, I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.
our a - tone - ment, while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.
death of an - guish and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
on thy pit - y and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

OPENING DEVOTIONS

ALL 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. Amen.

Officiant Let us pray. Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People Amen.

Please be seated

THE FIRST WORD

Luke 23:32-34

Reader Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with [Jesus]. And when they came to the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on the right and one on the left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

MEDITATION

Silence is kept for a space

ANTHEM

John Stainer

*And they came to a place named Gethsemane,
and Jesus saith to His disciples:
"sit ye here, while I shall pray."*

*"Could ye not watch with Me one brief hour?
Could ye not pity my sorest need?"*

*Ah! if ye sleep while the tempests lower,
surely, My friends, I am lone indeed."*

*Jesu, Lord Jesu, bowed in bitter anguish,
and bearing all the evil we have done,*

*Oh teach us how to love Thee for Thy love,
help us to pray, and watch, and mourn with Thee.*

—W.J. Sparrow Simpson

COLLECT

Please stand

Officiant Lord Jesus Christ, crucified for us, we stand at the foot of your cross to watch with you. Help us to see the cost of our forgiveness, so that we may be made new through your love.

People Amen.

TRISAGION

ARCHANGELSKY

ALL

Please be seated

THE SECOND WORD

Luke 23:39-43

Reader

One of the criminals who were hanged [with Jesus] 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."

MEDITATION

Silence is kept for a space

ANTHEM

Stephanie Martin

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi:
miserere nobis; dona nobis pacem
(Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us; grant us peace.)*

COLLECT

Please stand

Officiant

Lord Jesus Christ, you were hung on a cross because you love sinners. Save us from our self-righteousness and from our contempt for those who differ from us.

People

Amen.

ALL TRISAGION ARCHANGELSKY
Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

Please be seated

THE THIRD WORD *John 19:25b-27*
Reader 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 near, 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.

MEDITATION

Silence is kept for a space

ARIA *David Guion*

*At the cry of the first bird
They began to crucify Thee, O Swan!
Never shall lament cease because of that.
It was like the parting of day from night.
Ah, sore was the suff'ring borne
By the body of Mary's Son,
But sorer still to Him was the grief
Which for His sake
Came upon His Mother.*

— 'The Speckled Book', 12th century;
tr. Howard Mumford Jones

COLLECT *Please stand*
Officiant Lord Jesus, as we stand at the foot of your cross, help us to see and know
your love for us, so that we may place at your feet all that we have and are.
People Amen.

ALL TRISAGION ARCHANGELSKY
Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.
Please be seated

THE FOURTH WORD

Mark 15:33-39

Reader

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?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

MEDITATION

Silence is kept for a space

ANTHEM

John Goss

*God so loved the world,
that he gave his only begotten Son,
That whosoever believeth in him should not perish
but have everlasting life.
For God sent not his Son into the world
to condemn the world,
But that the world through him might be saved.*

—John 3:16, 17

COLLECT

Please stand

Officiant

Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us to suffer for the sake of conscience. When we are accused, save us from speaking in hate; when we are rejected, save us from bitterness; when we feel abandoned, help us still to cling to you.

People

Amen.

TRISAGION

ARCHANGELSKY

ALL

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

Please be seated

THE FIFTH WORD

John 19:28-29

Reader

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I thirst." A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his

mouth.

MEDITATION

Silence is kept for a space

MOTET

Samuel Wesley

*Si iniquitates observaveris, Domine,
Domine, quis sustinebit?
(If you, Lord, were to note what is done amis,
Lord, who could stand?)*

—Psalm 130:2

COLLECT

Please stand

Officiant

God of the hungry, make us hunger and thirst for what is right, until our
thirst for justice has been satisfied and hunger has gone from the earth.

People

Amen.

TRISAGION

ARCHANGELSKY

ALL

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

Please be seated

THE SIXTH WORD

John 19:29-30

Reader

A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of
the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had
received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave
up his spirit.

MEDITATION

Silence is kept for a space

MOTET

Henrique Carlos Correia

*O vos omnes,
qui transitis per viam,
attendite et videte
si est dolor sicut dolor meus.*

*[O all of you
who pass along this way,
attend and see
if there is any sorrow like my sorrow.]*

—Lamentations 1:12

COLLECT *Please stand*
Officiant Lord Jesus, acclaimed as king, crucified as criminal, teach us to accept our sufferings and triumphs for your glory alone.
People Amen.

TRISAGION ARCHANGELSKY
ALL Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.
Please be seated

THE SEVENTH WORD *Luke 23:44-46*
Reader It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

MEDITATION

Silence is kept for a space

ANTHEM *Maurice Greene*

*Lord, let me know mine end, and the number of my days;
that I may be certified how long I have to live.
Behold, thou has made my days as it were a span long;
and mine age is even as nothing in respect of thee;
and verily every man living is altogether vanity.
For man walketh in a vain shadow, and disquieteth himself in vain;
he heapeth up riches, and cannot tell who shall gather them.
And now, Lord, what is my hope;
truly my hope is even in thee.
Hear my prayer, O Lord, and with thine ears consider my calling;
hold not thy peace at my tears.
O spare me a little, that I may recover my strength;
before I go hence, and be no more seen.*

— Psalm 39:5-8, 13, 15

COLLECT *Please stand*
Officiant Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your hands of love on the hard wood of the cross, that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace. So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may

bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name.

People

Amen.

HYMN

WERE YOU THERE
African-American Spiritual

1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you
2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you
3 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you

there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
there when they nailed him to the tree? Oh!
there when they laid him in the tomb?

Some-times it caus - es me to trem - ble, trem - ble, trem - ble.

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

COLLECT

Officiant

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, set your passion, cross, and death between your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; peace and concord to your holy Church; and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever.

People

Amen.

The ministers process out of the church in silence, and then all may leave quietly.

Thanks to the St. John's Parish Choir and soloists Leo Campos and Kevin Kelly for their ministry of music at this evening's service.

EASTER 2024

Holy Saturday, March 30:

The Great Vigil of Easter, 7 pm

Easter Day, March 31:

Holy Eucharist, 8 am

Choral Eucharist, 10:15 am



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Staff

The Reverend Canon Ronald N. Pollock, *Rector*
frronpollock1@verizon.net

The Reverend W. Keith McCoy, *Deacon*
kmccoy1@optonline.net

Mark A. Trautman, *Organist-Choirmaster and Administrator*
mtrautman@stjohnsomerville.org