

# **SEVEN LAST WORDS**

**BY MICHAEL JOHN TROTTA**

**GOOD FRIDAY  
APRIL 3, 2026  
7:00 P.M.**

**Welcome to Christ Church:** If you are visiting for the first time and would like to learn more about this community of faith, please fill out a welcome card found in the pews and hand it to a member of the clergy after the service or place in the offertory plate. Although there are customary postures (such as standing and kneeling) in Episcopal worship, you are invited to be seated at any point, according to your needs and comfort. We're glad you're here.

**Good Friday Passion Gospel from John and Prayers:** The Episcopal Church has approached alternative texts with the goal "to provide a theologically positive accounting of the Jewish people in the Good Friday liturgy. In a time of rising antisemitic violence and rhetoric in the United States and globally, our Jewish partners are looking to Christians of good will for responses. Addressing the problems within the Good Friday liturgy, which historically has been a source of Christian rhetorical and physical violence against Jews, is one concrete way of responding." This translation of the passage is prepared by the Rev. Jane L. Patterson, Ph.D. to show the rhetorical form of John's passion narrative and how translation choices might be deployed to lessen potential anti-Jewish readings.

**The Good Friday Offering** is directed each year to the Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. If you are moved to give, please make your check out to Christ Church, *with "Good Friday"* in the memo or place your cash offering in the offertory plate.

You can also write a check and mail to:

DFMS-Protestant Episcopal Church US  
P.O. Box 958983  
St. Louis, MO 63195-8983

Make your check payable to: The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society with "Good Friday Offering" in the memo field.

✠ *The service tonight begins and ends in silence.*

✠ *The Clergy enter in silence.*

✠ *All then kneel or sit for silent prayer, after which the Officiant stands and begins the liturgy with the Collect of the Day.*

*Officiant* Blessed be our God  
*People* **For ever and ever. Amen.**

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 now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

✠ *The people sit.*

**“Father, Forgive Them”** from *Seven Last Words*  
Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.  
Kyrie Eleison (Lord, have mercy)  
Christe Eleison (Christ, have mercy)  
Kyrie Eleison (Lord, have mercy)

**Psalm 22** (*The people's responses in bold*)

- 1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? \*  
and are so far from my cry and from the words of my distress?
- 2 **O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; \*  
by night as well, but I find no rest.**
- 3 Yet you are the Holy One, \*  
enthroned upon the praises of Israel.
- 4 **Our forefathers put their trust in you; \*  
they trusted, and you delivered them.**
- 5 They cried out to you and were delivered; \*  
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.
- 6 **But as for me, I am a worm and no man, \*  
scorned by all and despised by the people.**
- 7 All who see me laugh me to scorn; \*  
they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,
- 8 **“He trusted in the Lord; let him deliver him; \*  
let him rescue him, if he delights in him.”**
- 9 Yet you are he who took me out of the womb, \*  
and kept me safe upon my mother’s breast.
- 10 **I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; \*  
you were my God when I was still in my mother’s womb.**
- 11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near, \*  
and there is none to help.

**“Today, You Will Be with Me”** from *Seven Last Words*  
Today, you will be with me in paradise. Remember me, when you come  
into your kingdom. O Lord, hear me!

## **The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ | John 18:12-27**

**“Behold Your Son”** from *Seven last Words*

Christina DeMaio, soloist

Behold your son. At the cross her station keeping,  
stood mournful mother weeping.

## **The Passion | John 18:28 – 19:16**

**“I Thirst”** from *Seven Last Words*

Andrew Sokol, soloist

I thirst. If you are Christ, come down from the cross,  
that we might see and believe. If you are King, save yourself,  
that we might see and believe.

## **The Passion | John 19:17-30**

✠ *People stand as they are able at the mention of Golgotha, and then are seated at the conclusion of the Passion reading.*

**“My God, Why Have You Abandoned Me?”** from *Seven Last Words*

My God, why have you abandoned me? My God, my God...

## **The Solemn Collects**

*Officiant:* Dear People of God: Our heavenly Father sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved; that all who believe in him might be delivered from the power of sin and death, and become heirs with him of everlasting life.

We pray, therefore, for people everywhere according to their needs.

✠ *The people kneel or sit.*

Let us pray for the holy Catholic Church of Christ throughout the world;

For its unity in witness and service

For all bishops and other ministers and the people whom they serve

For Rob, our Bishop, and all the people of this diocese

For all Christians in this community

That God will confirm the Church in faith, increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

*Silence*

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all nations and peoples of the earth, and for those in authority among them;

For Donald, the President of the United States  
For the Congress and the Supreme Court  
For the Members and Representatives of the United Nations  
For all who serve the common good

That by God's help they may seek justice and truth, and live in peace and concord.

*Silence*

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquility your dominion may increase, until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for the Jewish people who possess an eternal covenant with the Lord, who delivered them from bondage to freedom;

For continued faithfulness to God's covenant with them;  
For their flourishing in peace as witnesses to God's sustaining love;  
For safety from all malice and harm;  
For the fullness of redemption for the sake of God's Name.

That unity and concord may exist between Jews and Christians, in obedience to God's will.

*Silence*

God of Abraham, you planted your people Israel as the root and grafted us as wild branches into a single olive tree of praise to you: As we come near to the cross, we lament the history of prejudice and violence we have fomented between ourselves and your faithful people, of whom Jesus was born. Bless the children of your covenant, Jew and Gentile alike, as we strive together to attain the fullness of your blessing for the world. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all who suffer and are afflicted in body or in mind;

For those who are hungry and homeless, destitute and oppressed  
For those who are ill or disabled, in body, mind, or spirit  
For those in loneliness, fear, and anguish

For those who face temptation, doubt, and despair  
For those who are sorrowful and bereaved  
For those who are persecuted for the sake of Christ  
For prisoners, refugees, and captives  
For victims of war, genocide, and trafficking, and all those in mortal danger

That God in his mercy will comfort and relieve them, and grant them the knowledge of his love, and stir up in us the will and patience to minister to their needs.

*Silence*

Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: Let the cry of those in misery and need come to you, that they may find your mercy present with them in all their afflictions; and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them for the sake of him who suffered for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those who have not embraced God's redemptive love;

For those who have never heard the word of salvation  
For those who have lost their faith  
For those hardened by sin and indifference  
For the contemptuous and the scornful  
For those who are persecutors of Christ's disciples  
For those in the name of Christ have persecuted others

That God will open their hearts to the truth, and lead them to a life of faith and obedience.

*Silence.*

Merciful God, the source of life and fountain of mercy, let the Gospel of your Son Jesus Christ be preached with grace and love; turn the hearts of the followers of Jesus who have harmed others in his name; lead all to repentance and amendment of life; and sustain by your loving grace all who lift their eyes to you. **Amen.**

Let us commit ourselves to God, and pray for the grace of a holy life, that, with all who have departed this world and have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to God alone, we may be accounted worthy to enter into the fullness of the joy of our Lord, and receive the crown of life in the day of resurrection.

*Silence*

*Presider:*

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through

whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**“Into Your Hands I Surrender My Soul”** *from Seven Last Words*

Into your hands I surrender my whole soul.

Not mine, but your will be done.

**Invitation to Communion & Closing Prayer**

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

**“It Is Finished”** *from Seven Last Words*

Andrew Sokol, soloist

And with a loud voice Jesus cried, exclaiming: It is finished! Darkened was the sun, darkness covered the earth; torn was the veil; the earth did quake; all of the graves were open wide! Truly this man was the Son of God.

✠ *The clergy depart to the Chapel in silence. Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament in the Chapel will be offered. You are welcome to receive.*

✠ *Communion may be received standing at the Chapel altar rail. The bread is received in the open palm. (Gluten-free wafers are available). You may drink from the cup, or place your hand on the base as a sign of devotion. Intinction, dipping the wafer into the wine, is also acceptable.*

*Those who do not wish to receive Communion are invited to come to the Chapel for a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms over your chest.*

**Participating in Today’s Liturgy:**

Officiant: The Rev. Nicole Benevenia

Assisting: The Rev. Mark Pendleton

First Lector: Nancy Fleming

Second Lector: Richard Benefield

Third Lector: Cindy Eaton

Live Stream Tech: Nick Castillo

We are thankful to an anonymous member of the parish whose donation helped defray some of the costs of tonight’s musical offering.

## Holy Week Offerings

**April 4**

### **Easter Egg Hunt**

9:00 a.m. on the front lawn

**April 5**

### **Easter Day: The Day of the Resurrection**

8:00 a.m. Eucharist (In person only)

8:45 a.m. Breakfast in the Parish Hall

10:00 a.m. Eucharist w. Brass

(In person & Live Streamed)

## Musicians

*\*denotes soloist*

<p><b>Chorus</b></p> <p><b>Sopranos</b> Emily Ellis Patti Andrews Susan Fischer Katie Simon Danielle Larson-Clark Christina DeMaio* Laura Nickerson-Smith Caitlin McGonigle Leslie Pendleton</p> <p><b>Altos</b> Suzanne Fong Kathy Ringrose Diane DiPalermo Elease Latimer Cathy Hammon Barbara Morris Toy Fountain Adrienne Spear Annie Junkin Joy Titus Suzanne Jalbert Jones</p>	<p><b>Tenors</b> Claudia McQueen Andrew Sokol* Paul Wainwright Jack Maull</p> <p><b>Basses</b> Larry Yerdon Steve Watt Mark Vallone Joe Stieglitz Grant Kinglsey</p> <p><b>Chamber Orchestra</b> Chris Vallone, piano Laura Wyskiel, flute Sarah Krebs, oboe Alyssa Daly, horn Adam Peithmann, conductor</p>
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