



## *Wednesday Lenten Service*

March 17, 2021

6:30 p.m.

### ***The Last Seven Words Of Jesus On His Way To The Cross***

#### **Our Approach to God**

Prelude

The Call to Worship

Psalm 22:1-3, 50:3b

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest. Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice. The heavens declare his righteousness, Hear, O Lord, when we cry out to you. Amen!

The Hymn of Praise

*When I Survey The Wonderous Cross*  
(verses 1 & 3)

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The Call to Confession

Joel 2:12-13

The Prophet Joel cried out: Return to the Lord with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. With hearts broken open before God, let us confess our sins and repent of all unrighteousness.

The Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have been a rebellious people. We have failed to be an obedient church, failed to love the needy as our neighbors. We use religion to cover our shame, fasting in selfishness, not sacrifice, clothing ourselves in self-righteousness, not repentance. We have become a mockery of our heritage; the world looks at us and asks, where is their God? Forgive us, O God. Humble our rebellious hearts and restore in us the light of salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!

The Assurance of Pardon

The Lord receives your contrition and offers you comfort. Return to the Lord your God, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Let us be at Peace. Thanks be to God. Amen!

#### **The Word of God**

The Gospel Reading

Mark 15:33-36a

The Reflection

“My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?”

Pastor Philomena

The Closing Prayer:

God of Righteousness, you see the secret act of our devotion and know the hidden motives of our hearts. Open our eyes to see your presence, open our minds to know that you are there for us, open our hearts that we might love like you. Life can be exceedingly difficult, wrought, at times, with pain and suffering. Helps us when we cry out: “My God, My God, why have you abandoned me?” Yet you give us the grace, if you are willing to accept it, to see what the psalmist saw, to recognize what Jesus knew, and to recall that you are never far away. May we follow the example of Jesus and the psalmist, knowing that you are the source of comfort in our suffering. Take away our fear and entrust us with the humility of your Son Jesus Christ, who model for us. Praying the words, “Our Father in heaven...

The Hymn

*Create in Me A Clean Heart*

The Benediction

The Postlude

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