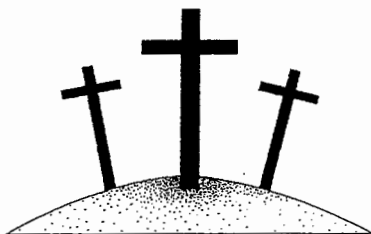


The Seven Last Words  
Of Our  
Lord and Saviour  
Jesus Christ  
Upon the Cross



A DEVOTION FOR GOOD FRIDAY, FROM THE SIXTH TO THE NINTH  
HOUR WHILE "THERE WAS DARKNESS OVER ALL THE EARTH."

*By*

The Right Rev. James Pernet DeWolfe, S.T.D.

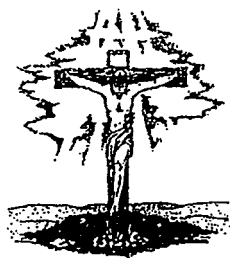
*Revised and Updated by*

Kenneth P. Quinn, Ph.D.  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Revised Edition, 1999)

St. John's Episcopal Church

Main Street at Prospect  
Huntington, Long Island, New York

# The Seven Last Words



## Three Hour Service Memorial of the Agony of Our Blessed Saviour Upon the Cross

Introductory Service



“IS IT NOTHING TO YOU, ALL YE THAT PASS BY?

BEHOLD AND SEE WHETHER THERE IS ANY SORROW LIKE UNTO MY  
SORROW”

Hymn 167 *There is a Green Hill Far Away.*

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy  
Ghost. *Amen.*

V. The Lord be with you.

R. *And with thy spirit.*

Let us pray.

Lord have mercy upon us.

*Christ have mercy upon us.*

Lord have mercy upon us.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

Hear what Saint Paul saith:

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We know that the old self was crucified with him so that the sinful body might be destroyed and we might no longer be enslaved to sin.

Let us therefore renew those promises made at our Baptism:

*The Apostles Creed*

I believe in God, The Father Almighty  
Maker of Heaven and Earth  
And in Jesus Christ, his only Son Our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the

dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost.  
The holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
and the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings, with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help; that in all our works begun continued and ended in thee, we may glorify thy Holy Name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### The First Word

“FATHER, FORGIVE THEM, FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO.”

Hymn 172 *Were you there when they crucified my Lord.*

V. The Lord be with you.

R. *And with thy spirit.*

O Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world;  
*Grant us Thy Peace.*

O Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world;  
*Have mercy upon us.*

O Christ, hear us.

*O Christ, hear us.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Lord, have mercy upon us.*

Christ, have mercy upon us.

*Christ, have mercy upon us.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Lord, have mercy upon us.*

Our Father...

V. and lead us not into temptation.

R. *But deliver us from evil. Amen.*

V. O Lord, deal not with us according to our  
sins.

R. *Neither reward us according to our iniquities.*

V. Savior of the world, who by thy Cross and precious  
Blood hast redeemed us:

R. *Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O  
Lord.*

*[Meditation]*

*[Silence]*

Let us pray:

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified; Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

O merciful God, who hast made all men, and hatest nothing that thou hast made, nor desirest the death of a sinner, but rather that he should be converted and live; Have mercy upon all who know thee not as thou art revealed in the Gospel of thy Son. Take from them all ignorance, hardness of heart, and contempt of thy Word; and so fetch them

home, blessed Lord, to thy fold, that they may be made one flock under one shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

## The Second Word

“TODAY SHALT THOU BE WITH ME IN PARADISE.”

Hymn 691 *My Faith Looks up to Thee*

V. The Lord be with you.

R. *And with thy spirit.*

O Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world;  
*Grant us Thy Peace.*

O Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world;  
*Have mercy upon us.*

O Christ, hear us.

*O Christ, hear us.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Lord, have mercy upon us.*

Christ, have mercy upon us.

*Christ, have mercy upon us.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Lord, have mercy upon us.*

Our Father...

V. and lead us not into temptation.

R. *But deliver us from evil. Amen.*

V. O Lord, deal not with us according to our sins.

R. *Neither reward us according to our iniquities.*

V. Savior of the world, who by thy Cross and precious  
Blood hast redeemed us:

R. *Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O*

Lord.

[Meditation]

[Silence]

Let us pray.

O God, who declarest thy almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Mercifully grant unto us such measure of thy grace, that we, running to obtain thy promises, may be made partakers of thy heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in thee: Mercifully accept our prayer; and because, through the weakness of our mortal nature, we can do no good thing without thee, grant us the help of thy grace, that in keeping thy commandments we may please thee both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### The Third Word

“WOMAN, BEHOLD THY SON.”

Hymn 159 *At the Cross her vigil keeping (Stabat Mater)*

V. The Lord be with you.

R. *And with thy spirit.*

O Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world;  
*Grant us Thy Peace.*

O Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world;  
*Have mercy upon us.*

O Christ, hear us.

*O Christ, hear us.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Lord, have mercy upon us.*

Christ, have mercy upon us.

*Christ, have mercy upon us.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Lord, have mercy upon us.*

Our Father...

V. and lead us not into temptation

R. *But deliver us from evil. Amen.*

V. O Lord, deal not with us according to our sins.

R. *Neither reward us according to our iniquities.*

V. Savior of the world, who by thy Cross and precious  
Blood hast redeemed us:

R. *Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O  
Lord.*

*[Meditation]*

*[Silence]*

Let us pray.

O God, who hast prepared for those who love thee such good things as pass man's understanding: Pour into our hearts such love toward thee, that we, loving thee above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Almighty God, we beseech thee graciously to behold this thy family, for which our Lord Jesus Christ was contented to be betrayed, and given up into the hands of wicked men, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost ever one God, world without end. *Amen.*



## The Fourth Word

"MY GOD! MY GOD! WHY HAST THOU FORSAKEN ME?"

Hymn 470 *There is a wideness*

V. The Lord be with you.

R. *And with thy spirit.*

O Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world;  
*Grant us Thy Peace.*

O Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world;  
*Have mercy upon us.*

O Christ, hear us.

*O Christ, hear us.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Lord, have mercy upon us.*

Christ, have mercy upon us.

*Christ, have mercy upon us.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Lord, have mercy upon us.*

Our Father...

V. and lead us not into temptation.

R. *But deliver us from evil. Amen.*

V. O Lord, deal not with us according to our sins.

R. *Neither reward us according to our iniquities.*

V. Savior of the world, who by thy Cross and precious  
Blood hast redeemed us:

R. *Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O  
Lord.*

[Meditation]

[Silence]

Let us pray.

O Almighty God, whose beloved Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption: Give us courage, we beseech thee, to take up our cross and follow him; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

O Lord God, whose blessed Son our Savior gave his back to the smiters and hid not his face from shame: Grant us grace to take joyfully the sufferings of the present time, in full assurance of the glory that shall be revealed; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## The Fifth Word

“I THIRST.”

Hymn 646 *The King of Love my Shepherd Is*

V. The Lord be with you.

R. *And with thy spirit.*

O Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world;  
*Grant us Thy Peace.*

O Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world;  
*Have mercy upon us.*

O Christ, hear us.

*O Christ, hear us.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Lord, have mercy upon us.*

Christ, have mercy upon us.

*Christ, have mercy upon us.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Lord, have mercy upon us.*

Our Father...

V. and lead us not into temptation.

R. *But deliver us from evil. Amen.*

V. O Lord, deal not with us according to our sins.

R. *Neither reward us according to our iniquities.*

V. Savior of the world, who by thy Cross and precious  
Blood hast redeemed us:

R. *Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O  
Lord.*

[Meditation]

[Silence]

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

O Lord, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth: Send thy Holy Ghost and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before thee. Grant this for thine only Son Jesus Christ's sake, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Holy Ghost, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

## The Sixth Word

"IT IS FINISHED."

Hymn 474 *When I Survey*

V. The Lord be with you.

R. *And with thy spirit.*

O Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world;  
*Grant us Thy Peace.*

O Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world;  
*Have mercy upon us.*

O Christ, hear us.

*O Christ, hear us.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Lord, have mercy upon us.*

Christ, have mercy upon us.

*Christ, have mercy upon us.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Lord, have mercy upon us.*

Our Father...

V. and lead us not into temptation.

R. *But deliver us from evil. Amen.*

V. O Lord, deal not with us according to our sins.

R. *Neither reward us according to our iniquities.*

V. Savior of the world, who by thy Cross and precious  
Blood hast redeemed us:

R. *Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O  
Lord.*

*[Meditation]*

*[Silence]*

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who by thy death didst take away the sting of death; Grant unto us thy servants so to follow in faith where thou hast led the way that we may at length fall asleep

peacefully in thee, and awake after thy likeness; through thy mercy, who livest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

Almighty and everlasting God, who of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility; Mercifully grant, that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### The Seventh Word

“FATHER, INTO THY HANDS DO I COMMEND MY SPIRIT.”

Hymn 441 *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

V. The Lord be with you.

R. *And with thy spirit.*

O Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world;  
*Grant us Thy Peace.*

O Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world;  
*Have mercy upon us.*

O Christ, hear us.

*O Christ, hear us.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Lord, have mercy upon us.*

Christ, have mercy upon us.

*Christ, have mercy upon us.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Lord, have mercy upon us.*

Our Father...

V. and lead us not into temptation.

R. *But deliver us from evil. Amen.*

- V. O Lord, deal not with us according to our sins.  
 R. *Neither reward us according to our iniquities.*
- V. Savior of the world, who by thy Cross and precious  
 Blood hast redeemed us:  
 R. *Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O  
 Lord.*

[Meditation]

[Silence]

Let us pray

O God, who by the passion of thy blessed Son didst make an instrument of shameful death to be unto us the means of life: Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ, that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Almighty God, with whom do live the spirits of those who depart hence in the Lord, and with whom the souls of the faithful, after they are delivered from the burden of the flesh, are in joy and felicity; We give thee hearty thanks for the good examples of all those thy servants, who, having finished their course in faith, do now rest from their labors. And we beseech thee, that we, with all those who are departed in the true faith of thy holy Name, may have our perfect consummation and bliss, both in body and soul, in thy eternal and everlasting glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

### Concluding Rite

Psalm 22: 1-21 *Deus, Deus Meus*

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.
12. Many young bulls encircle me; \*  
strong bulls of Bashan surround me.
13. They open wide their jaws at me, \*  
like a ravening and a roaring lion.
14. I am poured out like water

all my bones are out of joint; \*  
 my heart within my breast is melting wax.

15. My mouth is dried out like a pot-sherd;  
 my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; \*  
 and you have laid me in the dust of the grave.

16. Packs of dogs close me in,  
 and gangs of evildoers circle around me; \*  
 they pierce my hands and feet;  
 I can count all my bones.

17. They stare and gloat over me; \*  
 They divide my garments among them;  
 they cast lots for my clothing.

18. Be not far away, O LORD \*  
 you are my strength; hasten to help me.

19. Save me from the sword, \*  
 my life from the power of the dog.

20. Save me from the lion's mouth, \*  
 my wretched body from the horns of wild bulls

21. I will declare your Name to my brethren; \*  
 In the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

### Te Deum

We praise thee, O God; we acknowledge thee to be the  
 Lord.

All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting.  
 To thee all Angels cry aloud.  
 the Heavens and all the Powers therein.

To thee the Cherubim and Seraphim continually do cry:  
 Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;  
 Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory.  
 The glorious company of the apostles praise thee.



The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise thee.  
The noble army of martyrs praise thee.  
The holy Church throughout the world  
doth acknowledge thee,  
the Father, of an infinite majesty,  
thine adorable, true, and only Son,  
also the Holy Ghost the Comforter.

Thou art the King of glory, O Christ.  
Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.  
When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man,  
thou didst humble thyself to be born of a Virgin.  
When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death,  
thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers.  
Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the Glory of the  
Father.

We believe that thou shalt come to be our judge.  
We therefore pray thee, help thy servants,  
whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.  
Make them to be numbered with thy saints,  
in glory everlasting.

O Saviour of the world, who by thy Cross and precious  
Blood hast redeemed us: Save us, and help us, we humbly  
beseech thee, O Lord.



*Benediction*

The God of Peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the Blood of the everlasting covenant; Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. *Amen*

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Recessional Hymn 671 *Amazing Grace*