

THE SEVEN LAST WORDS

CHURCH OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI
2020

HYMN

Were You There
African American Spiritual

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

ANTIPHON

O Vos Omnes
Anne Quigley

O vos om - nes qui tran - si - tis per vi - am at -
ten - di - te et vi - de - te si est do - lor si - cut do - lor me - us.

*Text based on Lamentations 1:12: "O all you who pass this way,
look and see is any sorrow like the sorrow that afflicts me.*

THE FIRST WORD

READING AND MEDITATION

Luke 23: 32-38

“Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.”

PRAYER

Leader: Before you die, Jesus Christ,
and the world goes into deep darkness,
take from our lives,
from our souls,
from our consciences
all that has offended you,

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all that has hurt others,
and the self-interest
which has made us numb to the plight
of those whom we could help or heal.

Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world.

All: Have mercy on us.

Leader: Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world.

All: Have mercy on us.

Leader: Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world.

All: Grant us your peace.

Leader: On this day, at this time,
regardless of our faith or lack of it,
we accept deeply in our hearts
the only words that can set us free:

your sins are forgiven,
your sins are forgiven.

All: Amen.

ANTIPHON

O Vos Omnes

O vos om - nes qui tran - si - tis per vi - am at -
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The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the antiphon, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

THE SECOND WORD

READING AND MEDITATION

Luke 23: 32-33; 39-43

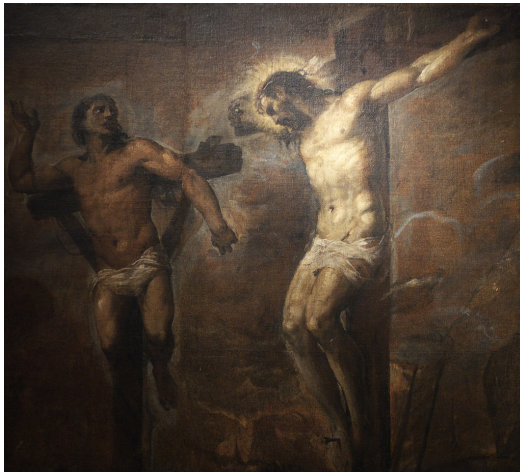
“Today you will be with me in paradise.”

PRAYER

Leader: Lord Jesus, remember us
when you come into your kingdom.

**All: Remember us,
not for our impressive accomplishments,
nor for the things
which we hope will appear in our obituaries.
Remember us,
not for the virtues we occasionally display
or for any credit
we think we have in our moral account.**

**Remember us,
as one of the criminal community
who hung at your side,
and if life will not let us be in paradise
with you today,
keep a place for us tomorrow.
Amen.**



ANTIPHON

O Vos Omnes

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THE THIRD WORD

READING AND MEDITATION

John 19: 25-27

“Woman, behold your Son. Behold your mother.”

PRAYER

Leader: For our families,
 where they are open, loving, supportive,
 that their joy might be kept safe,
 Lord, hear us,

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Leader: For our families,
 where they are tense, troubled, fragmented,
 seething with suspicion,
 that they may find a way through pain, not a path away from it,
 Lord, hear us,

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Leader: For our churches,
 where they risk welcoming the stranger,
 where in language, hospitality,
 evangelism and service,
 they employ the imagination
 rather than the rule book,
 that they might be encouraged and surprised by joy.
 Lord, hear us,

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Leader: For our churches,
where they have become introverted,
suspicious of the stranger,
obsessed with dead rather than living stones,
suffocated by tradition,
that they might be redeemed
from the pawnshop of past glory
and renewed by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Lord, hear us,

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Leader: For ourselves, in this time of separation,
together yet apart,
whose journey we have not traveled,
whose depth of faith we do not know,
whose potentials we cannot imagine,
that we might somehow know we belong to each other.
Lord, hear us,

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Leader: And before you leave the cross,
if there is one of your family
for whom we should care more fondly,
direct our gaze to them,
as you turned Mary towards John.

All: Amen.



ANTIPHON

O Vos Omnes



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THE FOURTH WORD

READING AND MEDITATION

Mark 15: 33-36

“My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?”

PRAYER

Leader: Lord Jesus,
by your cry of desperate honesty,
rid us of superficial faith
which is afraid of the dark.

Not so that we might be justified pessimists,
but so that we might discover profound joy,
give us, when we need it,
the courage to doubt,
to rage,
to question,
to rail against heaven
until we know we are heard.

All: **We do not ask for easy answers
to hard times;
there are many who can offer these.
We ask for a sense of your solidarity,
that will be enough
to let us know
that we do not walk or cry alone;**

that will enable us to go through the dark
and find light again in the morning.
Amen.

ANTIPHON

O Vos Omnes



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THE FIFTH WORD

READING AND MEDITATION

John 19: 28

“I thirst.”

PRAYER

Leader: You have made us for yourself.
We know it, even if we cannot name it.

We have had these bodies and these minds
long enough to learn to live
with our limitations.

Yet despite this,
something in us longs, yearns, thirsts,
for something better,
something greater
which we know is there.

Beautiful music ends
and we wish it could continue.

All: We embrace,
then refrain from embracing
and wish that we could be held forever.

We think deeply or feel deeply
and wish that this sense
of being caught up in living
would not be interrupted
by the mundane things of life.

We sense the disappointment
in dashed hopes
that deserve to be fulfilled,
in missed opportunities
which should have led to joy not frustration,
in people whose potential
has been buried or denied and deserves to flourish.

So much of life demands a resolution.

So thank you for this incompleteness,
thank you for this yearning,
thank you for this thirst.

Thank you for giving us enough of you
to want more,
and so to sense the fullness of eternity
within the limits of time.
Amen.

ANTIPHON

O Vos Omnes

O vos om - nes qui tran - si - tis per vi - am at -
ten - di-te et vi-de-te si est do-lor si-cut do-lor me-us.

THE SIXTH WORD

READING AND MEDITATION

John 19: 29-30

“It is finished.”

PRAYER

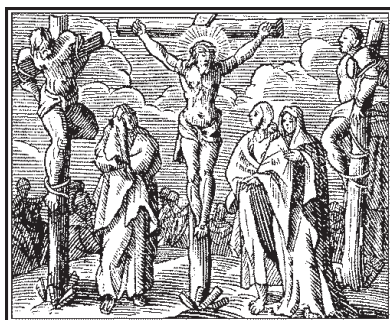
Leader: Now, Lord Jesus,
you can let go of us.

You have convinced us of our sin
and you have forgiven it.
You have convinced us of your way
and have engaged us on it.
You have shown us a foretaste of heaven
and have made us members of it.

All: You can let go of us now.

**Having overcome the sin of the world,
death will be a small obstacle.**

**Just as you foretold
that you would be handed over to be crucified
and this has come true;
also as you foretold,
on the third day,
you will rise again.
And we will be your witnesses.
Amen.**



ANTIPHON

O Vos Omnes



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THE SEVENTH WORD

READING AND MEDITATION

Luke 23: 44-49

“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”

PRAYER

Leader: Go, silent friend,
your life has found its ending.
To dust returns your weary mortal frame.
God, who before birth,
called you into being,
now calls you back,
his accent still the same.

Lord Jesus, we let you go.

You cannot cling to life forever,
nor can we cling to a dying frame,
nor do we begrudge you
that peace which passes understanding
which you have promised us.

**All: So go to heaven,
where you will welcome
those who die in your faith,
whose death, with your death, we remember.**

**Tell them that we love them,
that we miss them,
that they are not forgotten.**

**And cheered by the prospect of a day
when there will be no more death or parting,
and all shall be well
and all shall be one,
may they who have died before us
be among the first
to welcome us to heaven
where, with you enthroned in glory,
and in the company of the blessed Virgin Mary
and all the saints,
we will share the everlasting feast of your family.**

**'Til then,
keep us in faith,
fill us with hope,
deepen us through love,
to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.**

HYMN

O Sacred Head Surrounded
PASSION CHORALE

O Sacred Head, surrounded by crown of piercing thorn!
O bleeding Head, so wounded, reviled and put to scorn!
The pow'r of death comes o'er you, the glow of life decays,
Yet angel hosts adore you and tremble as they gaze.

In this, your bitter passion, Good Shepherd, think of me
With your most sweet compassion, unworthy though I be:
Beneath your cross abiding for ever would I rest,
In your dear love confiding, and with your presence blest.