

## GOOD FRIDAY TRE ORE READINGS AND PRAYERS

### APRIL 18, 2025

#### First Word

12:00 – 12:20 PM

Hymn 342 (stanza 1)  
Prayer

*There in God's Garden*

Gracious and merciful God, your Son did not strike back with revenge against those who ridiculed and crucified him but prayed for their forgiveness. Guide us to remain faithful to your Word, to follow your divine will, and to forgive all who have done us harm; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### Lesson

Luke 23:32-38

<sup>32</sup>Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. <sup>33</sup>When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[ <sup>34</sup>Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. <sup>35</sup>And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" <sup>36</sup>The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, <sup>37</sup>and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" <sup>38</sup>There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

Hymn 349

*Ah Holy Jesus*

Meditation

Hymn 324

*In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

**Second Word****12:25 – 12:45 PM**

Hymn 342 (stanza 2)

*There in God's Garden*

Prayer

Gracious and merciful God, from a world too often filled with pain, suffering, loneliness, and estrangement we cry to you, "Lord remember us in your kingdom." When our last hour comes, comfort our hearts with your life-giving promise, "Today you will be with me in paradise;" through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lesson

Luke 23:39-43

<sup>39</sup>One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup>But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" <sup>41</sup>And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup>Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." <sup>43</sup>He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Hymn 353

*Were You There*

Meditation

Hymn 348

*Stay With Me*

**Third Word****12:50-1:10 PM**

Hymn 342 (stanza 3)

*There in God's Garden***Prayer**

Gracious and merciful God, your Son showed compassion for his grieving mother by placing her into the care of his beloved disciple. Take us into your care with compassion. Guard and shield us from the assaults of evil and evildoers that we may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Lesson**

John 19:25b-27

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup>When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home

Hymn 334

*Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery*

Meditation

Hymn 339

*Christ the Life of All the Living*

**Fourth Word**

Hymn 342 (stanza 4)

**1:15-1:35 PM***There in God's Garden***Prayer**

Gracious and merciful God, you have drawn us all to yourself through the anguished suffering of Jesus, who cried out, "My God why have you forsaken me?" For the sake of your Son, do not forsake us when we bear our heaviest burdens and afflictions, but reach out to us and uphold us with your divine grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Lesson****Matthew 27:45-50**

<sup>45</sup>From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>46</sup>And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" <sup>47</sup>When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." <sup>48</sup>At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. <sup>49</sup>But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." <sup>50</sup>Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

Hymn 337

*Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed*

Meditation

Hymn 335

*Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*

## **Fifth Word**

**1:40 – 2:00 pm**

Hymn 342 (stanza 5)

*There in God's Garden*

### **Prayer**

Gracious and merciful God, in a time of physical suffering your Son Jesus cried out, "I am thirsty." Move us, your people, to hunger and thirst for your righteousness. Kindle our hearts with your divine love, that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, will be able to separate us from your love. Make us hunger and thirst to serve each other willingly; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Lesson**

John 19:28

<sup>28</sup>After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty."

Hymn 338

*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

Meditation

Hymn 345

*Jesus, I Will Ponder Now*

**Sixth Word****2:05 – 2:25 pm**

Hymn 342 (stanza 6)

*There in God's Garden***Prayer**

Gracious and merciful God, according to your will in Jesus the Christ, all is accomplished for our salvation. Grant that our lives may be filled with deeds of gratitude informed not only by our own less than perfect understanding, but according to your holy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Lesson****John 19:29-30**

<sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Hymn 347

*Go to Dark Gethsemane*

Meditation

Hymn 357

*Lamb of God, Pure and Sinless*

## Seventh Word

Hymn 342 (stanza 1)

2:30 – 2:50 PM

*There in God's Garden*

### Prayer

Gracious and merciful God, help us faithfully to follow our Lord Jesus Christ. And when you call us from this world, lead us to commend our spirits to you, and to pray with confidence in our hearts, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit," even when our voices cannot speak. Then receive us at last into your gracious hands; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Lesson

Luke 23: 44-49

<sup>44</sup>It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, <sup>45</sup>while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup>Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. <sup>47</sup>When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." <sup>48</sup>And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. <sup>49</sup>But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Hymn 359

Meditation

Hymn 351

*Where Charity and Love Prevail*

*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*