

Last Hour at the Cross



**Ringstone in Aveland
Group of Parishes**

The Seven Last Words

We gather here to worship God,
to remember how Jesus suffered and died for us
and to thank God for his love and mercy.

‘He had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hid their faces; he was despised, and we held him of no account.’ *Isaiah 53.2b-3*

Let us pray:

Merciful God
as we remember how your son
bore our sins in his body on the cross
and how he spoke seven times,
seven words of love,
we ask you to bless our hearing.
We ask you to help us
to understand the mystery of your love,
and make us into a people
that are ever more worthy of it.

All

Amen.

Music for reflection

The First Word: Luke 23.33-34

‘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. Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”’

Meditation and prayer

Lord Jesus – you gave your life for us

All **You suffered and died that we might be made whole**

Silence

The Second Word: Luke 23.39-43

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

Meditation and prayer

Lord Jesus – you gave your life for us

All **You suffered and died that we might be made whole**

Silence

Music for reflection

The Third Word: John 19.25-27

‘Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside him he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that time the disciple took her into his own home.’

Meditation and prayer

Lord Jesus – you gave your life for us

All

You suffered and died that we might be made whole

Silence

The Fourth Word: Mark 15.33-34

‘It was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o’clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, Leme sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”’

Meditation and prayer

Lord Jesus – you gave your life for us

All

You suffered and died that we might be made whole

Silence

Music for reflection

The Fifth Word: John 19.28

‘After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture), “I am thirsty.”’

Meditation and prayer

Lord Jesus – you gave your life for us

All You suffered and died that we might be made whole

Silence

The Sixth Word: John 19.29-30

‘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. When Jesus had received the wine, he said “It is finished.”’

Meditation and prayer

Lord Jesus – you gave your life for us

All You suffered and died that we might be made whole

Silence

Music for reflection

The Seventh Word: Luke 23.46

‘Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” Having said this, he breathed his last.’

Meditation and prayer

Lord Jesus – you gave your life for us

All You suffered and died that we might be made whole

Silence

Music for reflection

Prayers

Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases;
yet we account him stricken,
struck down by God and afflicted.

**All But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises are we healed.**

All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way
and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

**All He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.**

All leave in silence

