AN OUTLINE THREE HOURS SERVICE

The Seven Words from the Cross

*Opening Hymn*When I survey the wondrous cross

The First Word from the Cross :

‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing’

*Reading*: Luke 23:32-38

*At the end of the reading:*

God forbid that we should glory

Save in the cross of Christ our Lord

Meditation

Prayer

Silence

The Second Word from the Cross:

‘Today you will be with me in Paradise’

*Reading*: Luke 23: 39-43

*At the end of the reading:*

God forbid that we should glory

Save in the cross of Christ our Lord

Meditation

Prayer

*Hymn* 228: Meekness and Majesty

*Silence*

The third Word from the Cross:

‘Here is your son…here is your mother’

*Reading*: John 19:25-27

*At the end of the reading:*

God forbid that we should glory

Save in the cross of Christ our Lord

Meditation

Prayer

*Hymn* 472 (vv1,2): Sing we of the blessed mother

*Silence*

The Fourth Word from the Cross :

‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’

*Reading*: Mark 15: 33-35

*At the end of the reading:*

God forbid that we should glory

Save in the cross of Christ our Lord

Meditation

Prayer

*Hymn* 553: Jesu, lover of my soul

*Silence*

The Fifth Word from the Cross :

‘I am thirsty’

*Reading*: John 19:28,29

*At the end of the reading:*

God forbid that we should glory

Save in the cross of Christ our Lord

Meditation

Prayer

*Hymn* 576: I heard the voice of Jesus say…

*Silence*

The Sixth Word from the Cross:

‘It is finished’

*Reading*: John 19: 30-37

*At the end of the reading:*

God forbid that we should glory

Save in the cross of Christ our Lord

Meditation

Prayer

*Hymn* 227: Man of sorrows

*Silence*

The Seventh Word from the Cross:

‘Into your hands I commend my spirit’

*Reading* Luke 23:44-49

*At the end of the reading:*

God forbid that we should glory

Save in the cross of Christ our Lord

Meditation

Prayer

*Hymn* 561: Beneath the Cross of Jesus

*Silence*

The Reproaches

THE REPROACHES

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?  
Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow  
which was brought upon me,  
which the Lord inflicted on the day of his fierce anger.

Holy God,   
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal  
have mercy upon us.

O my people, O my Church, what have I done to you  
or in what have I offended you?  
Testify against me.  
I led you forth from the land of Egypt,  
and delivered you by the waters of baptism,  
but you have prepared a cross for your Saviour.

Holy God,   
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal  
have mercy upon us

I led you through the desert forty years,  
and fed you with manna.  
I brought you through tribulation and penitence,  
and gave you my body, the bread of heaven,  
but you prepared a cross for your Saviour.

Holy God,   
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal  
have mercy upon us

What more could I have done for you  
that I have not done?  
I planted you, my chosen and fairest vineyard,  
I made you the branches of my vine:  
but when I was thirsty, you gave me vinegar to drink,  
and pierced with a spear the side of your Saviour.

Holy God,   
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal  
have mercy upon us

I went before you in a pillar of cloud,   
and you have led me to the judgement hall of Pilate.  
I scourged your enemies and brought you into  
a land of freedom,  
but you have scourged, mocked and beaten me.  
I gave you the water of salvation from the rock,  
but you have given me gall and left me to thirst.

Holy God,   
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal  
have mercy upon us.

I gave you a royal sceptre,  
and bestowed the keys of the kingdom,  
but you have given me a crown of thorns.  
I raised you on high with great power,  
but you have hanged me on the cross.

Holy God,   
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal  
have mercy upon us.

My peace I gave, which the world cannot give,  
and washed your feet as a sign of my love,  
but you draw the sword to strike in my name,  
and seek high places in my kingdom.  
I offered you my body and my blood,  
but you scatter and deny and abandon me.

Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal  
have mercy upon us.

I sent the Spirit of truth to guide you,  
and you close your hearts to the Counsellor.  
I pray that all may be one in the Father and me,  
but you continue to quarrel and divide.  
I call you to go and bring forth fruit,  
but you cast lots for my clothing.

Holy God,   
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal  
have mercy upon us.

I came to you as the least of your brothers and sisters;  
I was hungry and you gave me no food,  
I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,  
I was a stranger and you did not welcome me,  
naked and you did not clothe me,  
sick and in prison and you did not visit me.

*Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal  
have mercy upon us.*

Closing Prayer