**GOOD FRIDAY**

**Christ, where for our salvation Jesus was obedient to the Father and experienced being tortured, humiliated, scorned and tortured and was nailed to the cross. Tonight, we meditate on the passion of Christ, while we reflect on the last 7 sayings of Christ. There is no music but rather solemn reflection.**

**The last Forgiveness**

Luke 23:34: Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”

This is Jesus’ prayer for forgiveness for the Roman soldiers and others involved in his crucifixion

**Salvation**

Luke 23:43: “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

 Jesus was crucified with a thief on either side. While one of them derided Jesus, the other who said Jesus was satisfied asked to be remembered he when he comes into his kingdom. says he will be in paradise (the only time that word is used in the gospels. This thief has a direct path to heaven.

**Relationships**

John 19:26–27: “Woman, here is your son.” -- “Here is your mother.”

Jesus entrusted his mother Mary to the disciple whom he loved. Here he was dying on the cross but was thinking about the welfare of his mother as the beloved disciple took her into his home.

**Abandonment**

Matthew 27:46 and Mark 15:34: “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?”

 This comes from Psalm 22:2. Jesus was always both human and diety at the same time. Put to death by his enemies, and deserted by his friends his human side, he may have felt abandonment by his Father.

**Distress**

John 19:28: “I am thirsty.”

This is compared and contrasted with the encounter of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well ((John 4:4-26)

**Triumph**

John 19:30: “It is finished.”

 Jesus completed his earthly mission, what God wanted him to do. Jesus bowed his head and gave up his spirit. God’s unconditional love and grace meant salvation for mankind. It was a demonstration of both mankind’s brokenness and God’s love.

**Reunion**

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.”

This is from Psalm 31:5 and proclaims Jesus is joining God in heaven. This is something we can pray, especially in times of fear or sickness or dying moments when we place trust God for our safekeeping.

*Lights extinguished we end in darkness.*