



# HIGHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Good Friday • April 3, 2026 • 6:00pm

**SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST**  
**GABRIEL FAURÉ: REQUIEM**

**Welcome**

Nolan Huizenga

**+ Opening Sentences**

Behold the cross  
that held the Savior of the world.  
**Come, let us worship God.**

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**+ Hymn 223**          When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

**Scripture**

Mark 15:1-25

Laurie Kraus

*The Third Hour*

**Requiem**

I. Introit and Kyrie

Gabriel Fauré

*Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.*

*A hymn is fitting to you, O God, in Zion, and vows will be fulfilled to you in Jerusalem.  
Hear my prayer; all flesh shall come to you.*

*Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.<sup>1</sup>*

**The First Word**

Luke 23:33-34

Adrian White

*“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”*

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<sup>1</sup> The Kyrie's cry for mercy rises alongside Christ's first word of forgiveness as humanity's plea is God's answer.

## Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,  
at this hour on the cross  
you showed mercy  
to those who crucified you.  
Show us how to forgive one another  
even as you have forgiven us,  
that we may be people of grace  
and ministers of reconciliation. **Amen.**

*Silence*

## Requiem

## II. Offertory

*O Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, deliver the souls of the departed from death and hell.  
O Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, deliver the souls of the departed from the mouth of  
the lion; let hell not swallow them up.  
O Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, let them not fall into darkness.*

*We offer to you, Lord, sacrifices and prayers of praise; receive them for the souls we  
commemorate today. Make them, Lord, pass from death to life, which once you promised  
to Abraham and his seed.<sup>2</sup>*

*O Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, deliver the souls of the departed from death and hell,  
let them not fall into darkness. Amen.*

## The Second Word

Luke 23:39-44

Megan McCarty

*“Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”*

## *The Sixth Hour*

## Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,  
at this hour on the cross  
you opened the doors of paradise  
to a condemned criminal.  
Open our hearts to love  
those who are doomed and despised  
that we may stand side by side  
when you come into your kingdom. **Amen.**

*Silence*

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<sup>2</sup> In its central Hostias (We offer to you, Lord.), the baritone solo strongly recalls the long tradition of the baritone voice portraying Christ in Passion settings. The prayer for deliverance thus sounds as though voiced through Christ himself — the intercessor who promises paradise even to the condemned.

## Requiem

## III. Sanctus

*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.*<sup>3</sup>

## The Third Word

John 19:25-27

Amy Bishop

*“Woman, here is your son.” Then he said to the disciple,  
“Here is your mother.”*

## Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,  
at this hour on the cross  
you established a new family  
among the people you loved.  
Establish your church in this place  
as a beloved community of disciples,  
that we may be a home of welcome  
for all the families of the earth. **Amen.**

*Silence*

## Requiem

## IV. Pie Jesu

*Merciful Lord Jesus, grant them rest; grant them eternal rest.*<sup>4</sup>

## The Fourth Word

Matthew 27:45-46

Nolan Huizenga

*“Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is,  
“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”*

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<sup>3</sup> The Sanctus gathers us into the cosmic liturgy, where all creation sings God’s holiness. In the Third Word, that song becomes flesh as Jesus creates a new community of love at the cross.

<sup>4</sup> The Pie Jesu is a plea for mercy and rest, a cry that echoes in the voice of Christ. In this shared cry, we glimpse the mystery that even in deepest suffering, we are not abandoned but held within God’s mercy.

## *The Ninth Hour*

### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
at this hour on the cross  
you cried out for help  
to the God of our salvation.  
Help us to hear the cries  
of those who feel forsaken,  
that we may bear witness  
to the saving love of God. **Amen.**

*Silence*

### **Requiem**

V. Agnus Dei

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant them rest, grant them eternal rest. May everlasting light shine upon them, O Lord. With your saints forever, for you are merciful. Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.*<sup>5</sup>

### **The Fifth Word**

John 19:28-29

Noa Gambrell

*"I am thirsty."*

### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
at this hour on the cross  
you called out in thirst  
and received a drink of sour wine.  
Teach us to hunger and thirst  
for what is just and right,  
that we may share the cup of blessing  
in the glory of your coming realm. **Amen.**

*Silence*

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<sup>5</sup> Christ the Lamb thirsts in suffering, yet through that thirst gives living water. The Agnus Dei holds frailty and redemption together. In its *Lux Aeterna*, Fauré's chromatic harmonies open like a prism of light — a sonic rainbow recalling God's covenant with Noah, a sign that even in judgment, God's promise of life and mercy endures.

## Requiem

## VI. Libera Me

*Deliver me, O Lord, from eternal death, on that fearful day, when heaven and earth shall be shaken, as you come to judge the world by fire.*

*I am seized with trembling and fear, for the day of reckoning approaches, and your wrath is near at hand.*

*Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.*

*Deliver me, O Lord, from eternal death, on that fearful day, when heaven and earth shall be shaken, as you come to judge the world by fire.<sup>6</sup>*

## The Sixth Word

John 19:30

Kathleen Poole

*“It is finished.”*

## Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,  
at this hour on the cross  
you raised your voice to proclaim  
the fulfillment of God’s saving work.  
Open our lips to proclaim  
the good news of your grace,  
that all the world may know  
the love of God that has no end. **Amen.**

*Silence*

## The Seventh Word

Luke 23:46

Becky Slagle

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

## Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,  
at this hour on the cross  
you entrusted your spirit  
to God, the giver of life.  
Now you entrust to us  
the message of the cross,  
that we may go forth in the Spirit,  
singing of a new creation. **Amen.**

*Silence*

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<sup>6</sup> The Libera me gives voice to humanity’s trembling before judgment and death. Fauré entrusts this cry to the baritone soloist, echoing the tradition of Christ’s voice in Passion music. The plea for deliverance thus becomes Christ’s own. And so the Libera me finds its answer in the Sixth Word, “It is finished”: not defeat, but fulfillment; not despair, but completion of God’s saving work.

## Requiem

## VII. In Paradisum

*May the angels lead you into paradise; at your coming, may the martyrs receive you, and lead you into the holy city of Jerusalem. May the choir of angels receive you, and with Lazarus, once a beggar, may you have eternal rest.<sup>7</sup>*

*We depart in silence.*

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Today's bulletin cover is by Jo Frizzo.  
Cross bearer: Shannon Bostrom

### **About the Seven Last Words of Christ Service**

The Seven Last Words service is a traditional Good Friday observance centered on the final sayings of Jesus from the cross, as recorded in the Gospels. Taken together, these words form a *summa passionis* — a sacred summation of Christ's mercy, promise, love, abandonment, suffering, fulfillment, and surrender. In this service, the scriptural readings are expanded to include more of the Passion narrative, allowing us to hear the fuller story surrounding each word. The procession of the cross that marks the beginning visually centers us on Christ's journey to Golgotha, drawing our eyes and hearts toward the mystery we gather to contemplate. This is a meditative service: each word is proclaimed, followed by prayer and silence, inviting us to linger at the foot of the cross as the Church remembers the hours from nine until three o'clock — the Third, Sixth, and Ninth Hours of that first Good Friday.

### **Musical Reflection and Meaning**

This service weaves together the Seven Last Words of Christ with *Requiem* by Gabriel Fauré, creating another layer of theological reflection. The *Requiem* is not traditionally conceived as a dramatic Mass for the Dead, but as a meditation on eternal rest and divine mercy. Its final movements, drawn from the burial rites, turn the focus from judgment toward peace. The work's seven movements — a number symbolizing completion in Scripture — trace a journey from human frailty toward heavenly fulfillment. In pairing this music with the Seven Last Words, the service invites us to face our own mortality not with fear but with trust. Even as we wrestle with the limits of life, we are reminded that Christ has walked this path before us. Through him, we rest in the promise that peace runs deeper than understanding and that love is never undone by death.

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<sup>7</sup> In Paradisum sings of angels leading the soul into eternal rest, where Christ's final offering brings peace. Entrusting himself to the Father, Jesus opens the way for us as well. Fauré seals this vision with a Picardy third — the shift from D minor to a radiant D major. Traditionally the key of triumph, here it becomes a quiet transformation, suggesting victory through surrender, as Christ's love shines upon us in eternal rest.

## **Musicians**

### **Conductor**

Vini Frizzo

### **Organ**

Brian Allred

### **Chancel Choir**

### **Soloists**

Edward Caruthers, baritone

Lauren Gibson, soprano

### **Chancel Choir Leadership**

Lauren Gibson, soprano section leader

Brian Shaw, tenor section leader

Edward Caruthers, bass section leader

### **Highland Ringers**

### **Horns**

Jon Gustely

Christopher Woosley

### **Timpani**

Terry O'Mahoney

### **Harp**

Louisa Woodson

### **Violin**

Ray Weaver

### **Violas**

Cindy Watson

Michael Hill

Lisa Weaver

### **Cellos**

Wendy Doyle

Cecelia Swanson

Alan Ohkubo

### **Bass**

Jessie Dobson

Today's orchestral musicians were provided by Nancy Harris and Harris Entertainment and appear with thanks to contributors to the Leon and Mary Rapier fund, established to support Highland's vibrant music ministry.

## **Ministerial Staff Serving the Community**

Rev. C. Nolan Huizenga, Pastor and Head of Staff

Rev. Megan McCarty, Associate Pastor for Mission and Membership

Rev. Adrian White, Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults

Amy Bishop, Director of Ministry with Children and Families

Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus, Parish Associate for Congregational Care

Dr. Vini Frizzo, Director of Music Ministries

Dr. Brian Allred, Organist



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