



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

April 6, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.



FIRST
PRES

THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST

BY THÉODORE DUBOIS

PROGRAM NOTES BY YVONNE GROVER

The tradition of singing the Passion story began in the early centuries of the Christian church. To add solemnity to Holy Week services, priests would chant the appointed Gospel account rather than simply read it. By the 13th century, these intonations had developed into dramatic narrations with soloists playing the key roles. The earliest polyphonic settings date from the 15th century with extant examples surviving from England, Italy and Spain. By the mid-17th century, the Reformation had led to a distinctly German oratorio Passion set in the vernacular, employing recitatives, arias, choruses and instrumental movements. These oratorio Passions ultimately reached their pinnacle in the great *St. Matthew Passion* and *St. John Passion* of Johann Sebastian Bach. Heinrich Schütz, considered the greatest Lutheran composer prior to Bach, composed his *Seven Last Words* in the early 17th century. In order to include all seven sayings Christ spoke during the crucifixion, Schütz created a composite text from all four Gospels. Franz Joseph Haydn composed an instrumental work on the *Seven Last Words* in 1787 and later added choral parts, but no composer is known to have created a major choral setting of this unique version of the Passion story until Théodore Dubois, over two centuries after Schütz.

Théodore Dubois (1837-1924) was an important organist, composer and teacher of music in the Paris music scene during the late 1800s. In 1861, he was awarded the prestigious *Prix de Rome* for composition. He studied at Reims and the Paris Conservatory where he later was the director from 1896-1905. The composer of four operas, a large-scale ballet, several oratorios, and a *Requiem Mass* as well as many orchestral works, Dubois remained a composer of the "academic style." He succeeded Camille Saint-Saens as organist at the Madeleine in 1877 and was highly regarded as an excellent music teacher. Dubois composed *The Seven Last Words of Christ* in 1867 for Saint Clotilde in Paris, where he was the choir director (*Maitre de chapelle*). He scored the work for full orchestra, chorus and soloists, but later revised his orchestration to include only organ, timpani and harp, the version most often heard today. This performance uses the chamber orchestration of one flute, one oboe, one clarinet, one bassoon, two horns, three trombones, two trumpets, strings, harp, organ and timpani.

The Seven Last Words of Christ is presented in eight movements: an introduction for soprano and orchestra, followed by a movement for each word of Christ from the cross. Composing for the Catholic church, Dubois used traditional texts from the Roman Catholic Holy Week liturgies to add meditations on the Scriptural account. The opening soprano solo is the *O Vos Omnes*, traditionally sung at *Tenebrae* services. In the Third Word, Christ's words to Mary, his mother, are combined with the 13th century sequence *Stabat Mater Dolorosa*; in the Fourth Word, Christ's anguish at being forsaken by his Father is combined with the liturgical text *Omnes Amici Mei*. At the end of the Seventh Word, Dubois concludes his sacred cantata with a hymn-like setting of the medieval antiphon *Adoramus Te, Christe*. This serene hymn, much like a chorale at the end of an 18th century cantata, provides the listener with a foretaste of the resurrection after the compelling drama of the Passion story.

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PRELUDE *Fugue in E-Flat* — Johann Sebastian Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

LITANY OF CONFESSION

LEADER: O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth;

CONGREGATION: Have mercy upon us.

LEADER: O God the son, Redeemer of the world;

CONGREGATION: Have mercy upon us.

LEADER: Forgive us of the many offenses we have committed
against You and Your Holy Commandments;

CONGREGATION: Spare us, good Lord.

LEADER: From all blindness of heart; from pride, vain glory, and
hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice;

CONGREGATION: Good Lord, deliver us.

LEADER: From fleshly lusts that war against the soul; from the deceits
of the world; from the counsel of the ungodly; and from all sin;

CONGREGATION: Good Lord, deliver us.

LEADER: By Your agony and blood; by the Cross and Passion; by
Your death and burial; by Your glorious Resurrection and Ascension;
and by the coming of the Holy Ghost:

CONGREGATION: We confess to Thee, Almighty God, Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit; that we have grievously sinned in thought, word, and
deed. Make us truly contrite. Fill us with holy fear; and give us grace
to amend our lives according to Thy word; for the glory of Thy holy
name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

HYMN OF RESPONSE *What Wondrous Love Is This*

THE LAST SEVEN WORDS OF CHRIST — Théodore Dubois

INTRODUCTION: (Lamentations 1:12; Ruth 1:20)

O all ye who travel upon the highway, hearken to me,
and behold me: was e'er sorrow like unto my sorrow?

For the Lord Almighty hath dealt bitterly with me.
Call me now no more Naomi, from today call me Mara.

FIRST WORD:

Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do. (Luke 23:34)

And the people clamor'd: He is death-guilty; (Matthew 26:66)

take him, take him, let us crucify him! (Mark 15:13)

Be his blood on us, and on our children! (Matthew 27:25)

Then they did crucify Jesus, and the two thieves,
one at His right hand, the other at His left hand. (Luke 23:33)

SECOND WORD:

Verily, thou shalt be in Paradise today with me.

Amen, so I tell thee. (Luke 23:43)

Hear me, O Lord, and remember me, when Thou comest
into Thy kingdom. (Luke 23:42)

THIRD WORD:

See, O woman! here behold thy son beloved. (John 19:26-27)

See yon mother, bow'd in bitter anguish, who beside the cross
doth languish, where on high her son is borne.

Is there mortal, who not feeleth to behold her where she kneeleth.

FOURTH WORD:

God, my Father, why hast Thou forsaken me?

(Matthew: 27:46 and Mark 15:34)

All those who were my friends, all have now forsaken me, and they
that hate me do now prevail against me; and he whom I have
cherished, he hath betray'd me Even the vine that I have chosen,
and that I have planted: wherefore art thou now so
strangely turned into bitterness, that I by thee am crucified?

FIFTH WORD:

I am athirst! (John 19:28) And the Jews then passing by him, all did rail upon him, and wagging their heads at him, they said unto him: Ah! Thou wouldst fain destroy the temple; if thou be Jesus, Son of the Father, now from the cross descend thou, that we behold it, and believe on thee when we behold it. If thou art king over Israel, save thyself, then! (Mark 15:29-30)

SIXTH WORD:

Father, into Thy hands I commend my soul. (Luke 23:46)
For Thou art my God and my Father;
Thou art my Savior. (Psalm 89:26)

SEVENTH WORD:

And with a loud voice Jesus cried, exclaiming: "It is finished!"
And He did bow His head, and rendered up His spirit (John 19:30)
And it was about the sixth hour; and the sun was darkened,
and darkness covered the earth, until about the ninth hour; and the veil of the temple was rent, and all the earth did quake; (Luke 23:44)

CLOSING HYMN *Lead Me to Calvary*

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

THE PEOPLE LEAVE IN SILENCE



24-Hour Prayer Vigil

 April 6, 8 p.m. – April 7, 8 p.m.

 April 7, 6:30 p.m.

 Worship Center

**Good
Friday**



 April 9

 Sunrise Service: 6:30 a.m.

 Sanctuary: 8, 9:30 + 11 a.m.

 Worship Center: 10 a.m.



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Easter Sunday!



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