

# Good Friday Service ~ April 18, 2025

## Service for Swansea & Charlestown Presbyterian Church

### Welcome & Prayer

Romans 5:6-10 tells us: <sup>6</sup>*You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.* <sup>7</sup>*Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die.* <sup>8</sup>*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* <sup>9</sup>*Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!* <sup>10</sup>*For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!"*

**Lets' Pray.** Our Lord and Heavenly Father, we come to you today with hearts full of praise, with hearts full of joy. For we know that this time of year is where we very specifically remember the boundless love you hold, even for sinners who rejected your rule over their life. Lord, we thank you for the beauty of this gift. And Lord, we count the cost. We recognise that we crucified Jesus as much as Pontius Pilate or the Roman guards. We recognise that we denied Jesus as Simon Peter did. We recognise that we mocked you as the robber or the soldiers who forced the crown of thorns onto his head. We recognise that we often worship in secret, as Nicodemus did. And yet Lord, you have loved us enough to send your Son to die and then to call us and reveal this truth to us.

As we ponder your sacrifice, make us a people who sacrifice for others. Help us to give up time, money, reputation, pride – these earthly trappings – for that which is so much better. Make us a people who submit, who love, who give sacrificially, not for our own glory, but to shine the love Jesus showed on that first, strangest of all Good Fridays. Keep this uppermost in our mind, Lord. Many are in need in our community right now, Lord. Open opportunities for us to help meet those needs all around us.

Father, we pray you will comfort and protect those who are vulnerable. As they struggle with various needs, often in silence, we pray that the message of Easter will be prominent. Help those who are lost to realise their need for you and your limitless love. Encourage them to come to you in humble repentance, accepting the gift that Jesus offered as he gave up his life for them. Father, we pray that even through the unusual societal impact of COVID-19 that you will bring people back to you. In the name of Jesus, we bring these petitions to you. Amen.

### Song – Glories of Calvary [The Glories of Calvary With Lyrics By Sovereign Grace Music](#) (feat. Norton Hall Band) - YouTube

1. Lord, You're calling me to come  
And behold the wondrous cross  
To explore the depths of grace  
That came to me at such a cost  
Where Your boundless love  
Conquered my boundless sin  
And mercy's arms were opened wide

2. Sinners find eternal joy  
In the triumph of Your wounds  
By our Savior's crimson flow  
Holy wrath has been removed  
And Your saints below  
Join with your saints above  
Rejoicing in the Risen Lamb

Chorus: My heart is filled with a thousand songs  
Proclaiming the glories of Calvary  
With every breath, Lord how I long  
To sing of Jesus who died for me  
Lord, take me deeper  
Into the glories of Calvary

Chorus x2  
Bridge: For all eternity we will sing worthy  
Our God has set us free  
We'll sing the glories of Calvary  
Repeat Bridge  
Chorus

## Bible Reading – Luke 23:26-49 (NIV)

<sup>26</sup> As the soldiers led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. <sup>27</sup> A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. <sup>28</sup> Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. <sup>29</sup> For the time will come when you will say, ‘Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’” <sup>30</sup> Then “they will say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us!’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us!’” <sup>31</sup> For if people do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?” <sup>32</sup> Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. <sup>33</sup> When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. <sup>34</sup> Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. <sup>35</sup> The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.” <sup>36</sup> The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar <sup>37</sup> and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.” <sup>38</sup> There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. <sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” <sup>40</sup> But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence?” <sup>41</sup> We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” <sup>42</sup> Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” <sup>43</sup> Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.” <sup>44</sup> It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, <sup>45</sup> for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup> Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last. <sup>47</sup> The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, “Surely this was a righteous man.” <sup>48</sup> When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. <sup>49</sup> But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

## Announcements

**Focus for Month: Easter.** Easter is the make or break of the Christian story. Paul says if Jesus didn’t die and come back to life, our faith is futile, we are lost in our sins and we should be pitied more than anyone else. But if Jesus did die and come back to life then it is the most important thing that has every happened in the history of the world and it becomes the basis of our faith in Jesus. This Easter, go back to the source documents and consider again the life, death, resurrection and ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ

### Easter Services

20/4 Resurrection Sunday: 8am (Swansea); 9:45am & 6pm (Charlestown Public School)

**Charlestown Church has moved!** For the next 4-5 months we will be meeting at Charlestown Public School, on the corner of Smith St and Fredrick Sts. Please have a look around for the extra jobs that need to be done (set up, car park attendant, clean toilets afterwards, first aid office etc) and see if you can help out with something.

**School Holidays.** NSW school holidays continues this weekend which means the regular activities of the church will go into recess until Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April. Next week Kids Church will run with a full kid’s programme at the Cottage/Office starting 9:40am. The only exceptions will be THRIVE will join us at Charlestown School again for next Sunday.

**New City Catechism: Question 17.** What is idolatry? Idolatry is trusting in created things rather than the Creator for our hope and happiness, significance and security. **Scripture:** “They exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator” (Romans 1:25)

**Outgrow Ministries.** A few weeks ago, we hosted a seminar on the dangers of porn for both men and women, young and old. The next step is to run some small groups where those who would like some help in dealing with porn (or who want to know more about it to help someone else) can meet in a supportive environment. These groups will be mainly online and run across all the Presbyterian churches in Newcastle. If you are interested, please contact Lindon on 0479 167 333 or at [linden@outgrowministries.org](mailto:linden@outgrowministries.org)

**Webbs Missionary Visit.** Please note our link missionaries Chris and Karen Webb will be visiting us on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May and also joining the Young Adults Bible Study on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May @ 7:15pm and the Swansea Bible Study on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May @10:30am. All invited. Please make the most of this opportunity to think through indigenous ministries.

## Pastoral Prayer

**Pray for Maldives** (Population 518,000, Christians, hundreds). Maldives declares itself 100% Muslim — there is no room for public Christianity. Please pray that secret believers can access the Bible in their own language this year. For Christians to find opportunities to meet, pray, and worship together. That the Lord will alert tourists to the persecution of Christians in the Maldives.

**Pray for Vanuatu.** Thank God for our ongoing partnership with Hog Harbour Presbyterian and Walaha Village. Pray that these groups will train up their young people to put their trust in Jesus in the midst of an increasingly secular world. Pray that they will keep the preaching of the word of God at the centre of all that they do.

**Pray that Australians** will make the most of this **Easter long weekend**. That they will take time to stop and reflect on the meaning behind Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday. That they will the good news of Jesus either on social media, TV, internet, a friend or from coming to Church this weekend. That the way we celebrate Easter this weekend would make a deep impression on the people around us.

**Pray for the leaders of our groups, such as** Kids Church, Sparklers, IMPACT, Junior Youth and Bible Studies. That they might have a good rest over these school holidays. That they will lead in both word and deed. And that those who go along to these groups will “obey them so that there their work will be a joy, not a burden.” (Hebrews 13:17)

## Bible Reading – John 19:17-30 (NIV)

*So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. <sup>17</sup> Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). <sup>18</sup> There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle. <sup>19</sup> Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. <sup>20</sup> Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. <sup>21</sup> The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.” <sup>22</sup> Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.” <sup>23</sup> When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. <sup>24</sup> “Let’s not tear it,” they said to one another. “Let’s decide by lot who will get it.” This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said, “They divided my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.” So this is what the soldiers did. <sup>25</sup> Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, “Woman, here is your son,” <sup>27</sup> and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. <sup>28</sup> Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” <sup>29</sup> A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. <sup>30</sup> When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.”*

## Song – Jerusalem <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g252SXZvdn4>

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1. See Him in Jerusalem<br/>Walking where the crowds are<br/>Once these streets had sung to Him<br/>Now they cry for murder<br/>Such a frail and lonely man<br/>Holding up the heavy cross<br/>See Him walking in Jerusalem<br/>On the road to save us</p>                             | <p>4. See the empty tomb today<br/>Death could not contain him<br/>Once the servant of the world<br/>Now in victory reigning<br/>Lift your voices to the one<br/>Who is seated on the throne<br/>See him in the new Jerusalem<br/>Praise the one who saved us</p> |
| <p>2. See him there upon the hill<br/>Hear the scorn and laughter<br/>Silent as a lamb he waits<br/>Praying to the father<br/>See the king who made the sun<br/>And the moon and shining stars<br/>Let the soldiers hold and nail him down<br/>So that he could save them</p>             | <p>Lift your voices to the one<br/>Who is seated on the throne<br/>See him in the new Jerusalem<br/>Praise the one who saved us<br/>Praise the one who saved us</p>   |
| <p>3. See him there upon the cross<br/>Now no longer breathing<br/>Dust that formed the watching crowds<br/>Takes the blood of Jesus<br/>Feel the earth is shaking now<br/>See the veil is split in two<br/>And he stood before the wrath of God<br/>Shielding sinners with his blood</p> |   |

## Sermon – The real Jesus (Stephen T)

**Sermon link:** <https://youtu.be/l-rD-FoZ9ic>

I was flicking around you tube videos a few weeks ago when I came across Ed Sherrin singing a gospel song. That looks interesting I said to myself, I quite like Ed Sherrin's music but I didn't expect him to sing overly Christian songs. And it was a really good song and I thought, I wonder if he wrote it or it was just a cover of someone else's song? Of course, at the end of the video there were other similar options popping up, including Ed Sherrin singing other Christian songs.

Wait a second, "Why haven't I heard of this before"? So, I googled is Ed Sherrin a Christian? And the answer that came back loud and clear was No. These videos are AI generated. His voice put to other people's songs and his face and body superimposed onto the video clips.

You see AI is a real game changer now. You can make almost anyone seem to say almost everything. And I feel sorry for those who have their identity stolen like Ed Sherrin and others. Why should people put words into their mouths? Why use someone's voice or face to project an image that is totally fake? Why can't we let people speak for themselves?

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But when you think about it people have been doing that sort of things to Jesus, for centuries. We have had the hippy Jesus, the cool Jesus, the gay Jesus, the black Jesus, the social justice Jesus, the married Jesus, in fact it seems you can have any type of Jesus you want. There actually was a movement about 50

years that was in search of the historic Jesus. It was all so confusing that they wanted to go back to the source materials and see who Jesus really was.

And that's what I want to do this morning. Go back to the last hours of Jesus life to help us find the real Jesus. Because when people go through tough times, the real them comes out. And no one went through a harder time than Jesus. Disowned by his friends, condemned by his foes, flogged by the soldiers, abused by the crowds, strung up on a cross and left to die an agonising death. This is a man placed under extreme pressure and as he is squeezed on every side, the real Jesus will come out. He speaks for himself with what has become known as the last seven sayings from the cross. Starting with

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### 1. Forgiveness – Luke 23:34

<sup>33</sup> *"When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. <sup>34</sup> Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots."*

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Can you imagine the scene? Here is Jesus hanging on the cross. He has the weight of the world on his shoulders. He is about to die. And is he preoccupied with his pain? Is he consumed by his sorrow? Do we see him petrified about dying? No, we see him concerned about people's sin. He wants to find a way where their sins can be forgiven.

So, I can imagine him looking at Peter, James, John and the disciples and saying "Father forgive them, for letting me down at the crucial moment." He looks around at the Roman soldiers busily taking his life and says "Father forgive them, for not giving me and others justice." He looks on at the Pharisees checking out that the crucifixion is happening in the right way saying "Father forgive them, for letting their prejudices rule their opinions." And he even turns to the criminals either side of him, one hurling abuse the other reaching out in hope and he says "Father forgive them, for speaking harshly against me." Father forgive them all, for they don't know what they are doing.

Isn't that amazing? We would retaliate; we wouldn't be able to control our tongues. We would have hate rising in our hearts. We would go over and over that hurt. We would plan ways of revenge. We would want justice. And Jesus calls out to God for forgiveness. Jesus interceded for them before his Father God.

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Because that is why Jesus had come to the earth in the first place. He hadn't come to overthrow the Romans and bring in a physical kingdom of God. He hadn't come primarily to be a teacher, to give his followers an ethical code to live by. He had come to bring about the forgiveness of sins. In the words of 2 Corinthians 5:21 *"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."*

Do you get that? He swaps our sin for his righteousness. He took all that we have ever done wrong and gave us all that he ever had done right. You see when Jesus was saying father forgive them, he wasn't just using words only. He was dying to give out that sort of forgiveness. But not just to the soldiers and the disciples and the crowds and the even the religious establishment, he was talking to you and me on that cross. "Father forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing."

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This is not the AI Jesus talking to you and me today. This is not a fake Jesus talking to us either, it's the real Jesus. The apostle John puts it this way *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* (1 John 1:9) How amazing is that? Jesus is offering us forgiveness, a new start, a clean slate! No wonder they call this day, Good Friday. For forgiveness can be ours today, as well as

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## 2. Salvation – Luke 23:39-43

*“One of the criminals who hung there, hurled insults at him: ‘Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!’”<sup>40</sup> But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence?”<sup>41</sup> We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”<sup>42</sup> Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”<sup>43</sup> Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”*

The second word from the cross is to do with salvation. For this is why Jesus had come – to seek and to save the lost. And here right in front of Jesus was an example of someone who was lost and someone who was saved. For the first criminal was lost. He was thinking about his own skin. He was trying to get whatever he could out of Jesus, so he yells out, “save yourself and us too!”

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But the second criminal fears God. The second criminal is touched by Jesus offer to forgive him his sins. And so, he puts his trust in Jesus, even though he really doesn’t have a prayer and his situation is completely hopeless. And he hears those wonderful words, “Today I will see you in paradise.”

This second criminal will now die a saved man. And he is saved not because Jesus got down from that cross and took away the nails that were holding onto that piece of wood. But because Jesus stayed nailed to that cross and died the death that the second criminal deserved. For by dying on that cross, Jesus had not only the sins of that criminal on his shoulders, he actually had the sins of the world on his shoulders. The salvation of the world rested on what Jesus would do next.

So, it was not the Roman nails that kept Jesus on that cross. It was not the presence of the Roman guards that meant he stayed up there. It was his love for the sinner, that kept him there. It was the only way he could offer sinners like this thief and like you and me the salvation that we so desperately need. It’s a salvation that we don’t deserve. But a salvation offered to all because of God’s grace.

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What a precious salvation because it is cost the life of the only perfect person to obtain it. The Son of God travelled from heaven to the cradle, from Bethlehem to Jerusalem, from the cross to the grave and then onto hell to purchase your salvation and mine. That’s the real Jesus right there in front of you offering you this salvation. He is not offering you, health and wealth today, nor is he is not offering you a problem free existence but he is offering you forgiveness of your sins, a restored relationship with God and thirdly he is offering you

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## 3. A new family – John 19:26-27

<sup>25</sup> *“Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, “Woman, here is your son,” <sup>27</sup> and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.”*

Jesus is hanging on the cross but as he hangs, he knows his work is not yet finished. For the fifth commandment talks about honouring your father and mother. Jesus probably no longer has a dad, we haven’t heard anything about him since Jesus was 12 years of age, but he still has a mother, Mary. And being the oldest Son, he is now responsible for her.

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And even though he left the carpenters shops some three years ago, he still feels acutely his family responsibilities. He knows that Mary will need to be provided for. He sees that Mary will need to be comforted. He understands the ache in her heart. So, he makes sure someone will look after her financially, emotionally and spiritually, once he has gone.

He turns to John, the disciple whom He loved and He says to John, "Behold, your mother!" He turns to His mother and says, "Woman, behold your son!" These two people who had lost a son and had a lost a friend, would find comfort, hope and support in each other. For this is what happens to the believer. We are not immune from loss, death and grief. But that is one of the reasons the Church is there.

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For Mary finds another son in the Church. John finds another friend in the Church. And so, as Jesus predicted earlier in his life, *"No one who has left homes or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the Kingdom of God will fail to receive many times as much in this age and in the age to come eternal life."*

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Do see what is on Jesus mind at the very end? He's starting a new family? Because if you're in Jesus, if you believe in Jesus, you're in the family of God and you have new brothers and sisters and mothers and fathers. The King from His cross, naked before His mother, is saying "You need not just a heavenly father but a spiritual family to walk with you here on earth." Blood family ties are important within the Kingdom of God but so are the spiritual ties that bind the people of God together in the deepest of relationships.

I would have to say one of the greatest blessings of my life is that at the cross Jesus offers me people like you to be a part of my family. You include me in births, marriages and deaths. You walk beside me as we do life together. You help me when I fall and I get to care for you when you are lost. That's what the real Jesus is all about, creating a new family. That's what he was thinking just before he died – forgiveness, salvation, family as well as anguish.

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#### 4. Anguish – Matthew 27:45-6

<sup>45</sup> *"From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. <sup>46</sup> About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?")*

For as Jesus hangs on the cross, he experiences a physical darkness that is all encompassing. But that physical darkness also points to a spiritual darkness. For God has now left him. His heavenly Father has now turned his back on him. The one who he has been in a perfect relationship with, throughout all eternity, is no longer at his side. Those of us who know the presence of the Lord, know how much we need it. But Jesus had God's presence throughout his whole existence & now it's gone. It's tough when a friend betrays us, isn't it? Difficult when your spouse, parent or child is no longer with you. But Jesus now is completely alone.

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It's strange, isn't it? We would think at this time, more than anytime else, God would be there for his son. But He isn't? Why is that? Because in his body, Jesus has all the sins of the world. On his shoulder is everything everyone has ever done wrong. The thing that made God turn his back on his son that Good Friday was that comment we made yesterday, that jealousy we experienced the day before, that desire we had today to live for ourselves.

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And that fills Jesus with anguish & the pain of separation. A physical anguish, an emotional anguish, a spiritual anguish all interlocked with each other. What will the real Jesus do at this point? He will stay where he is. That's his commitment to the father's will. That's his complete endorsement of God's plan for mankind. And it continues even when he

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#### 5. Thirsts - John 19:28

<sup>28</sup> *Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." <sup>29</sup> A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips."*

You see he knows that what is happening to him on the cross has already been prophesied about in the OT. He knows that Isaiah foretold that the suffering servant will be pierced for our transgression and bruised for our iniquities. He recalls that Jonah chapter 2 looks forward to the time when "Salvation will come from the Lord". Jesus remembers Psalm 22 speaks the very same words, "My god, my god why have you forsaken me." And he is very much aware that in Psalm 69 that when the suffering one was filled with thirst it looked forward to the time when "they put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst."

Jesus knows the father's run sheet. He knows what is coming next and even though he is on the cross, looking completely helpless, he is showing us that he is still in control, complete control. Caesar is not the boss, the soldiers are not in control, the Pharisees are not really moving the pieces around the chess board, Jesus is the puppet master and he is still pulling all the strings.

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You see when you and I see Jesus dying as he does, it would be easy for us to have our doubts about his humanity. How can someone forgive others like he has just done. How can a dying man be concerned about the world's salvation? How can you still think about the commandments and about your mother and your friend? How can he cope with the sins of the world being rested upon his frame? He can't be like us; he can't be a human, can he?

And then he says "I thirst." I thirst. Prior to that he had been born in a manger. Raised in the home of a carpenter. He has been so tired he slept in a back of a boat. He had eaten and drunk with tax collectors. He had cried at the tomb of Lazarus. And now he thirsts. And his thirst reminds us of his human and frail body. Jesus may be God but he also knows what it is like to do life in a human body, to experience physical pain, to walk more than a few miles in our shoes. Yes, Jesus is the second part of the Trinity but he was also fully human.

His body is wracked with pain. His mouth and stomach desperate for liquids to deal with the dehydration of dying on a cross in a hot and unforgiving climate. But he is now near the end of his ordeal and so sixthly we see how his words of completion

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## 6. Completion – John 19:30

<sup>30</sup> "When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." Man's salvation is now done. The salvation of the entire world has now been accomplished. Jesus work on earth has now been completed. He had lived the perfect life. He was now to die a sacrificial death. But I wonder how did Jesus say those words, "it is finished?" Well, the Bible doesn't say.

But I am sure they weren't said spitefully or grudgingly or through clenched teeth. Instead, I'm sure they were said victoriously! "It is finished!" I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. Here is Jesus' cry of victory, like a master batsman who has not just save the test match but won it for the team. Jesus has now done what he came here to do. His life has finished but more importantly his work has now also finished.

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When you look at any of the great artists, somewhere in their collection is their unfinished work. Michelangelo, the great painter, sculptor, designer and architect had an entire hall of unfinished works. But Jesus left not one thing undone. It is all completely paid for.

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In the late 1890s, archaeologists Bernard Grenfell and Arthur Hunt were digging through an ancient Egyptian rubbish pile. And they came on a pile of ancient papyrus documents. Not so much fine literature like the dead sea scrolls. But the sort of ordinary papers you keep in a filing cabinet for tax time. And throw out every seven years. Papers from everyday life. Like private letters. And accounts. And Receipts. And it



turned out very commonly on receipts when the account's been paid, there's a Greek word they scribble across the top. Tetelestai. It is finished. The exact same word Jesus now says from the cross. Fully. Finished. Your account with God; your debt. Paid in full. So now completely wiped clean. It is finished. Which leads to his very last word before he dies, a word of commitment.

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### 7. Commitment – Luke 23:46

<sup>46</sup> “Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last.” We marvel at the commitment that top athletes have to get to the top – the training, the diet, the hard work for years upon years upon years.

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In the 1976 Olympic Games, Shun Fujimoto, competed in the team gymnastic competition for Japan. In a quest for a gold medal, Fujimoto suffered a broken right knee in the floor exercises. But his injury didn't stop him, for in the very next week he competed in his strongest event, the rings. His routine was excellent, but he astonished everyone by squarely dismounting with a triple somersault twist, right onto his broken knee. When asked concerning his routine, he said, “Yes, the pain shot through me like a knife. It brought tears to my eyes but now I have a gold medal and the pain is gone.”

That takes real commitment, but not the same level of commitment that Jesus had to die on our behalf. He committed his life for our salvation. He committed himself into the Spirit of God. He commits his eternity to his father. In his last words, Jesus sums up his life. Not my will, but thy will be done, he says. Father into your hands I commit my spirit. I give you my life, my soul, my all.

Slide 24

Do you want to know what the real Jesus looks like? Look no further than his last seven words on the cross. Here is a man committed to do the will of the father. Here is a man willing to take our sins on himself to offer us forgiveness, to take our place on the cross, to give us the chance of salvation. Here is someone whose human body is filled with anguish, and racked with thirst, because he wants to pay the debt you owe and bring you into the family of God.

It's remarkable, isn't it? So don't get carried away with Jesus looked like. Don't major on the minors or enlist him to be the champion of what you think is most important. Bow down to Him. Worship Him. Give your life to Him. Because spoiler alert, this Jesus doesn't remain dead but on the third day he rises again and he is now been declared the king of the world. You see if the message of Good Friday is a great one just wait till you hear what happens in two days' time. In the words of a sermon delivered many years ago.

Slide 25

It's Friday. Jesus is praying. Peter's a sleeping. Judas is betraying. But Sunday's comin'  
 It's Friday. Pilate's struggling. The council is conspiring. The crowd is vilifying. They don't even know. That Sunday's comin'  
 It's Friday. The disciples are running. Mary's crying. Peter is denying. But Sunday's a comin'  
 It's Friday. See Jesus walking to Calvary. His blood dripping. His body stumbling. And his spirit's burdened. But you see, it's only Friday. Sunday's comin'  
 It's Friday. The world's winning. People are sinning. And evil's grinning. But Sunday's comin'  
 It's Friday. He's hanging on the cross. Feeling forsaken by his Father. Left alone and dying  
 Can nobody save him? Ooooh. It's Friday. But Sunday's comin'  
 It's Friday. The earth trembles. The sky grows dark. My King yields his spirit  
 It's Friday. Hope is lost. Death has won. Sin has conquered and Satan's just a laughin'  
 It's Friday. Jesus is buried. A soldier stands guard. And a rock is rolled into place  
 But it's Friday. It is only Friday. Sunday is a comin'!  
 Friday was amazing enough, but Resurrection Sunday, that is something even better again!

## Song – No other name [No Other Name \(Acoustic Song Leading Video\) // Emu Music - YouTube](#)

1. There is no other name  
In heaven can be found  
Through whom we are redeemed  
Through whom your grace abounds  
No other name can save  
But Jesus Christ our Lord

**Chorus:** My joy in sorrow's tears  
My strength to cast out fears  
No other name but Jesus, Jesus  
My hope in darkest night  
My broken soul's delight  
No other name but Jesus, Jesus

2. There is no victory  
But Jesus crucified  
No other cure for sin  
But that our Saviour died  
No other hope we have  
But that he rose again

3. No other throne endures  
No other song remains  
But 'Worthy is the Lamb  
Who was for sinners slain'  
When every knee shall bow  
And tongue confess you are Lord, You are Lord

## Benediction

<sup>38</sup> *Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me.* <sup>39</sup> *Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it."* (Matthew 10: 38-39)