

**“SEVEN WORDS”  
APRIL, 2009**

Holy Week is fast approaching. Palm Sunday is on April 5<sup>th</sup> and the procession with palms will begin this special week-long celebration for Christians around the globe. This is the high point of the year for followers of Jesus Christ. We remember the fateful events that took place between his triumphal entrance into Jerusalem and his resurrection from the dead.

This will be a busy week for us at Lake Seminole Presbyterian Church. Every year, many members and visitors attend our Palm Sunday service and Easter Sunrise service. A number of our members also come to the solemn Maundy Thursday Communion service. The least attended Holy Week event is the Good Friday Prayer Vigil. Our sanctuary is open from noon to 3:00 p.m. for this special service. The Gospels record seven sayings from Jesus while he was on the cross. Every half hour during this prayer vigil, one of these seven sayings is read. In the time between readings, people pray and meditate.

If you have never attended a Good Friday Prayer Vigil, I encourage you to join us on Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. You can come any time between noon and three o'clock and stay for as long as you wish. According to the Gospels, these are the seven words (sayings) that Jesus uttered while he was hanging on the cross:

- "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34)
- "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23:43)
- "Woman, here is your son. Here is your mother." (John 19:26-27)
- "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani? [My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?]" (Matthew 27:46)
- "I am thirsty." (John 19:28)
- "It is finished." (John 19:30)
- "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." (Luke 23:46)

For centuries, Christians have reverently listened to these words on Good Friday and have meditated on their meaning. This spiritual discipline has been handed down from generation to generation and is part of our rich Christian heritage. I hope that you can take advantage of the opportunity to join us on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor Robert Wierenga  
Lake Seminole Presbyterian Church  
[www.lakeseminolepc.org](http://www.lakeseminolepc.org)