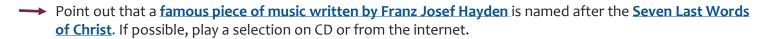# THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST
A Scripture Search Activity for young people

Explain that, before dying, many people speak final words that express their feelings and thoughts at that moment.

➡ Invite the young people to identify the speakers of these famous last words (fictional and non-fictional):

♦ "Et tu, Brute?" (Julius Caesar)

♦ "I have been and always will be your friend. Live long. And prosper." (Mr. Spock, *The Wrath of Khan*)

♦ "If you strike me down, I shall become more powerful than you could possibly imagine." (Obi-Wan-Kenobi, *Star Wars*)

♦ "I'm melting!" (Wicked Witch of the West, *Wizard of Oz*)

♦ "Are you guys ready? Let's roll." (Todd Beamer, passenger aboard United Flight 93, September 11, 2001)

♦ "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country." (Nathan Hale, 1776)

➡ Explain that as Jesus was dying on the cross, he said some very important words.

➡ Provide Bibles for each of the young people and tell them to search for the following passages and to write down the words that Jesus spoke:

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

♦ **Luke 23:43** (Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise)

♦ **John 19:26-27** (Woman [Mary], behold your son. [to the disciple] Behold your mother.)

♦ **Matthew 27:46** and/or **Mark 15:34** (My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?)

♦ **John 19:28** (I thirst)

♦ **John 19:30** (It is finished.)

♦ **Luke 23:46** (Father, into your hands, I commend my spirit.)

➡ When everyone is finished, ask, *"If you had never heard of or met Jesus before, and just happened to be passing by as he was dying on the cross, what kind of a person would you think he was based on his last words? What was most important to him?"*

Explain that the Seven Last Words of Christ serve as an excellent Lenten meditation, especially during Holy Week.

➡ Point out that a **famous piece of music written by Franz Josef Hayden** is named after the **Seven Last Words of Christ.** If possible, play a selection on CD or from the internet.

➡ Invite the young people to memorize (take to heart) the seven last words of Christ. See if any volunteers can recall them without looking at their written work.