

THE SEVEN LAST WORDS FROM THE CROSS

*Midweek Lenten Service IV
March 6, 2024*

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church – Huron, SD

"WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?"

Pre-Service Hymn Sing

Welcome

Opening Hymn # 431 – Not All the Blood of Beasts

- 1 Not all the blood of beasts
On Jewish altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience peace
Or wash away the stain.

2 But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb,
Takes all our sins away;
A sacrifice of nobler name
And richer blood than they.

3 My faith would lay its hand
On that dear head of Thine,
While as a penitent I stand,
And there confess my sin.

4 My soul looks back to see
The burden Thou didst bear
When hanging on the cursèd tree;
I know my guilt was there.

5 Believing, we rejoice
To see the curse remove;
We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice
And sing His bleeding love.

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Invocation and Kyrie

P: In the name of the Father and of ✠ the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Behold, the Lamb of God!

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: O God, Father in heaven,

C: Have mercy on us.

P: O Son of God, Redeemer of the world,

C: Have mercy on us.

P: O God, the Holy Spirit,

C: Have mercy on us.

Reading of the Passion Narrative

Those who had arrested Jesus brought him to the high priest's house, where the scribes and elders were assembled. Peter followed him afar off, and so did another disciple. That disciple was known to the high priest and went in with Jesus into the palace of the high priest, but Peter stood outside at the door. So that other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the doorkeeper and brought Peter in. He went in and sat with the servants to see the end. He was warming himself at the fire they had kindled in the middle of the courtyard.

Meanwhile, the chief priests and the whole council were seeking evidence that might make the case for a death sentence, but they could not find any. Many bore false witness against him, but their statements did not agree. Two stepped forward and said, "We heard him say, 'I shall destroy this temple made with hands and after the beginning of the third day I shall build another, not made with hands.' " But even on this point their evidence did not agree.

Then the High Priest stood up, moved to the center, and put this question to Jesus, “Do you have no answer? What is this evidence they have given against you?” But he was silent and gave no answer. Again the High Priest put a question to him and said, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” Jesus said, “I am. You will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of God’s power and coming with the clouds of heaven.” The High Priest tore his garments and said, “Do we still need any witnesses? You have heard this blasphemy. What is your opinion?” They all declared that he was liable for death.

Then some of them began to spit on him; they blindfolded him, struck him, and said to him, “Prophecy to us, O Christ, who is he that struck you?” The guards beat him as they took him away.

Meanwhile Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. One of the maidservants of the High Priest came and saw Peter warming himself. She looked at him closely as he sat in the light of the fire, and said, “You also were along with the man from Nazareth, that Jesus.”

Peter denied it and said, “I do not know what you mean.” He went out to the forecourt. Another maidservant saw him there and said to those who were standing around, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.” Peter denied it again with an oath, “I do not know the man.” A little later those standing around said to Peter, “Surely you are one of them. You are a Galilean. Your accent gives you away.” Peter took an oath calling down a curse upon himself, “I do not know the man.”

And immediately while he was still speaking, the cock crowed a second time, and the Lord turned and look on Peter. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, “Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.” Peter broke down, and went out, and wept bitterly.

As soon as it was morning the chief priests with the elders and the scribes held the court session with all the Sanhedrin. Then they bound him, led him away, and turned him over to Pilate. Then Judas, who had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, was sorry and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, “I have sinned. I have betrayed innocent blood.”

They said, “What is that to us? That is your affair.” Judas threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed. He went and hanged himself.

The chief priests took the silver pieces and said, “It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood.” They took counsel and bought with them the potter’s field to bury strangers in. That is why to this day that field has been called “the field of blood.”

In this way was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, “They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him on whom a price had been set by the children of Israel, and gave them for the potter’s field.”

Children’s Sermon

Hymn# 447 (“Fourth Word”) – Jesus, In Your Dying Woes - Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34

10 Jesus, whelmed in fears unknown,
With our evil left alone,
While no light from heav’n is shown:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

11 When we seem in vain to pray
And our hope seems far away,
In the darkness be our stay:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

12 Though no Father seem to hear,
Though no light our spirits cheer,
May we know that God is near:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

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The Message “Why Have You Forsaken Me” – Based on Matthew 27:45-46

The Offering and Exchange of Peace

The Prayers

P: Heavenly Father, it is so difficult for us to understand the enormity of the guilt of our sins which Jesus took upon Himself on the cross. But even more difficult is it for us to understand the enormity of Your wrath and judgment directed against Jesus because of our sins. Help us, O Lord, by Your Holy Spirit to understand Your Word that says:

C: “Your sins have made a separation between you and your God; Your sins have hid His face from you so that He does not hear.”

P: O Lord, by Your Spirit's power, we begin to understand in Jesus' Fourth Word from the Cross the depth of His suffering. Far greater than the unspeakable physical agony He endured was the suffering of hell that He experienced in our place as You removed Your presence from Him.

C: We thank You, O God, that You made Him who was without sin to become sin in our place, so that in Him we might become righteous before You.

P: As we have Your assurance of the full forgiveness of our sins for Jesus' sake, give us also the confidence that through Jesus we need never fear the forsakenness of hell beyond this life. But grant unto us also, O Lord, the conviction throughout our life that in Your love and mercy...

C: ...You will never leave us nor forsake us, but will strengthen us through every hardship and sustain us through every trial.

P: In Your mercy, O Lord, hear our prayer.

C: Amen

The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Benediction

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the ✠ Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen

Closing Hymn # 887 – Now the Light Has Gone Away

- 1 Now the light has gone away;
Father, listen while I pray,
Asking Thee to watch and keep
And to send me quiet sleep.

- 2 Jesus, Savior, wash away
All that has been wrong today;
Help me ev'ry day to be
Good and gentle, more like Thee.

- 3 Let my near and dear ones be
Always near and dear to Thee;
O bring me and all I love
To Thy happy home above.

4 Now my evening praise I give;
Thou didst die that I might live.
All my blessings come from Thee;
Oh, how good Thou art to me!

5 Thou, my best and kindest Friend,
Thou wilt love me to the end.
Let me love Thee more and more,
Always better than before.

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Acknowledgments

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