

THE SEVEN LAST WORDS FROM THE CROSS

*Midweek Lenten Service VI
March 20, 2024*

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church – Huron, SD

“IT IS FINISHED”

Pre-Service Hymn Sing

Welcome

Opening Hymn # 433 – Glory Be to Jesus

- 1 Glory be to Jesus,
Who in bitter pains
Poured for me the lifeblood
From His sacred veins!

- 2 Grace and life eternal
In that blood I find;
Blest be His compassion,
Infinitely kind!

3 Blest through endless ages
Be the precious stream
Which from endless torment
Did the world redeem!

4 Abel's blood for vengeance
Pleaded to the skies;
But the blood of Jesus
For our pardon cries.

5 Oft as earth exulting
Wafts its praise on high,
Angel hosts rejoicing
Make their glad reply.

6 Lift we, then, our voices,
Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder
Praise the precious blood!

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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

The chief priests kept laying one charge after another against him, but he answered not a word. Pilate questioned him again, saying, “Do you answer nothing? See how many charges they lay against you.” Jesus answered him not a word. Pilate was utterly amazed. He said to the chief priests and the crowd, “I find no case against this man.”

They pressed their charges more vehemently: “He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judaea, beginning from Galilee to this place.” When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. When he learned that he belonged in Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him on to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem for those days.

When Herod saw Jesus, he was delighted, for he had long wished to see him because of what he had heard of him, and he hoped to see him do a miracle. He questioned Jesus repeatedly, but he gave him no answer. The chief priests and scribes stood there and vehemently accused him. Herod and his soldiers mocked him. They put on him a splendid robe and sent him back to Pilate. Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that same day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, and said to them, “You have brought this man before me as one subverting the people. See now, I have examined him before you and have found nothing in this man guilty of any of your charges against him, and neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Mark this, he has done nothing worthy of death. I will have him punished and release him.”

Now at the feast it was the governor’s custom to release to the crowd any one prisoner whom they asked for. They had then a notorious prisoner named Barabbas. He was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder in the uprising in the city. Pilate knew that it was out of malice that the chief priests handed Jesus over. Therefore he said to them, “Do you want me to release for you Barabbas or Jesus who is called Christ?”

The chief priests and elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. Pilate asked them again, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they cried out all together, saying, “Away with this man, and release for us Barabbas.”

While Pilate was sitting in the judgment seat, his wife sent him a message: “Do not have anything to do with that man; I have suffered much over him today in a dream.”

Again Pilate addressed them, for he wished to release Jesus. He said to them, “What shall I do then with Jesus who is called Christ? What shall I do with him whom you call the King of the Jews?” They all cried out, “Crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Why, what evil has he done? I have found no guilt worthy of death in him; I will therefore punish him and let him go.” They cried out all the louder, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. The soldiers of the governor led him away into the praetorium. They gathered the whole band of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put on him a purple robe. When they had woven a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and a reed in his

right hand, and they knelt before him and mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. They knelt down and did him homage.

Pilate went out again and said to them, “See, I bring him out to you that you may know I find him not guilty.” So Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Behold the man!”

When the chief priests and officers saw him, they cried, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I do not find him guilty.” The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and by that law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.”

When Pilate heard this, he was more afraid and went again into the judgment hall and said to Jesus, “Where are you from?” Jesus gave him no answer. Then Pilate said to him, “Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to crucify you, and I have power to release you?” Jesus answered, “You would not have any power at all over me, unless it had been given to you from above. For that reason he who handed me over to you has the greater sin.”

This prompted Pilate to go on trying to release him, but the Jews cried out, “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Everyone who makes himself a king sets himself against Caesar.”

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement or, in Hebrew, Gabbatha. It was the Preparation of the Passover, about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, “Behold your king!” They cried out, “Away with him, away with him, crucify him!” Pilate said unto them, “Shall I crucify your king?” The chief priest answered, “We have no king but Caesar.”

When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but rather a riot was under way, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of the blood of this man; see to it yourselves.” Then all the people responded, “His blood be on us and on our children.”

Then Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, gave sentence that it should be as they demanded. He released to them Barabbas for whom they asked, the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder. He had Jesus flogged and then gave him over to their will to be crucified. The soldiers mocked him, stripped him of the purple robe, put his own clothes on him, and led him out to crucify him.

Children's Sermon

Hymn# 447 (“Sixth Word”) – Jesus, In Your Dying Woes - John 19:30

16 Jesus, all our ransom paid,
All Your Father's will obeyed;
By Your sufferings perfect made:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

17 Save us in our soul's distress;
Be our help to cheer and bless
While we grow in holiness:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

18 Brighten all our heav'nward way
With an ever holier ray
Till we pass to perfect day:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

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The Message “It Is Finished” – Based on John 19:30

The Offering and Exchange of Peace

The Prayers

P: O God, what a wonderful day it was when You finished creation in all its perfection and all of its glory.

C: What a wonderful day as You beheld everything You had made and it was very good.

P: O God, what a tragic day it was when our first parents chose to disobey your command and fell into sin.

C: What a tragic day as the perfection of all creation and the eternal life of Your people was suddenly finished.

P: O God, what somber days Your people lived as they awaited the fulfillment of Your promise to send a Savior from sin.

C: What somber days as the blood of so many sacrificial animals was shed as a sign of the greatest of all sacrifices that would one day be made.

P: O God, what a sorrowful day it was when you had to send Your beloved Son, Jesus, to the cross as the one, perfect sacrifice for all people, for all sin, and for all time.

C: What a sorrowful day as Jesus suffered and shed His holy blood for us.

P: O God, what a day of peace it became when Jesus proclaimed the victory over sin, over the devil’s condemnation, and over death in His words, “It is finished.

C: Let that day and his words bring peace and hope into our hearts. Assure us that with our sins forgiven our salvation has been won.

P: For Jesus' words, "It is finished," and for the eternal victory that is now ours, we give You our thanks and praise.

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 # 878 – Abide With Me

1 Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

- 2 I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.
- 3 Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings;
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev'ry plea.
Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.
- 4 Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.
- 5 I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!
- 6 Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

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Acknowledgments

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