



Lutheran Church & Christian School



Midweek VI
"Hands!"

March 29, 2023

Redeemed, Restored, & Rejoicing in Jesus!

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AS WE GATHER

Jesus had no epitaph. Buried in a borrowed tomb, no words were emblazoned across His grave. Instead, during the Savior's final hours, He paved a way through suffering with seven Words – seven Words for life, remembered and recited throughout the ages – simple sentences, tiny touchstones along His way of sorrows to see us through our own. To be sure, these Words have a lasting impact, even now, for us, beginning with today's Word: "Hands!" Truly it is a Word that bestows life – now, for eternity.

PRELUDE

LEAD ME TO THE CROSS *(Words & Music by Brooke Fraser © 2006 Hillsong Publishing)*

1. Savior I come, quiet my soul, remember
Redemption's hill, where Your blood was spilled for my ransom

*Chorus: Everything I once held dear, I count it all as loss.
 Lead me to the cross where Your love poured out
 Bring me to my knees, Lord, I lay me down.
 Rid me of myself, I belong to You.
 Oh, lead me, lead me to the cross.*

2. You were as I, tempted and tried ... human.
The Word became flesh, bore my sin in death; now, You're risen.

Chorus

*Bridge: To Your heart; to Your heart.
 Lead me to Your heart; lead me to Your heart.*

Chorus

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN OF INVITATION “With Words that Last Forever”

[TUNE: LSB 449]

With words that last forever You speak in richest grace,
Lord Jesus Christ, my Savior, upon Your cross disgraced.

With open ears I listen, with open mind believe,
With open heart embrace You: I, Lord, Your words receive.

“Forgiveness” granted sinners, and “Paradise, today!”

“Behold your son, your mother!” to family You say.

The air is split with anguish in Your “Forsaken” cry,
As “Thirsty,” work “Accomplished,” in “Father’s hands” You die.

Pray, sanctify the silence with which I contemplate
Your boundless love for sinners, Your sacrifice so great,

Till at the tomb I waken to Your new Word for me:
These words, not last, but lasting, shall ring eternally!

APPROACHING THE WORD

The sign of the cross may be made in remembrance of your Baptism.

P The grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ ✠ the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be and abide with you all.

C And also with you.

P “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.”

C “Father, into Your hands I commit my spirit.”

P “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”

C “Father, into Your hands I commit my spirit.”

P Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

C “Father, into Your hands I commit my spirit.”

P “Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.”

C “Father, into Your hands I commit my spirit.”

P “The Word that goes forth from My mouth shall not return to Me empty,” says the Lord. “It shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

C “Father, into Your hands I commit my spirit.”

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Almighty and everlasting God, who willed that Your Son should bear the pains of the cross and so destroy the power of the adversary to harm us, help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's Passion that we may receive the forgiveness of sins and life everlasting; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 53:1-6* (The suffering Servant of God.)

¹ Who has believed what he has heard from us?

And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

² For He grew up before Him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;

He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him,
and no beauty that we should desire Him.

³ He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.

⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed Him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But He was pierced for our transgressions;
He was crushed for our iniquities;
upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with His wounds we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING *Romans 4:7-9* (Living to Christ.)

⁷ For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸ For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

OUR SAVIOR SPOKE WITH SEVEN WORDS

[Tune: KINGSFOLD, *LSB 444*]

**The sixth word spoke of victory - His hours of passion done;
His finished work to God He gave as ever-faithful Son.
And with His labor at its end His last word came as prayer
Committing all He did and was To God's unending care.**

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GOSPEL READING *Luke 23:44-49* (The death of Jesus.)

P The holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-third chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁴⁴ It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵ while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit My spirit!" And having said this He breathed His last. ⁴⁷ Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!" ⁴⁸ And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. ⁴⁹ And all His acquaintances and the women who had followed Him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SERMON HYMN "Jesus, in Your Dying Woes"

LSB 447:19-21

MEDITATION “Hands!”

Notes:

HYMN OF RESPONSE “Lord of All Hopefulness”

LSB 738

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P As we mark the forty days of Lent with repentance and forgiveness, let us pray for the renewal of the Church and the restoration of the world to the life of God in Christ.

Silence for time of personal reflection.

Each petition concludes with the following response:

C Heavenly Father, open Your hands.

Additional petitions may be offered.

P Gracious Father, listen to the prayers that flow from our lips, and sustain us with the forgiveness won by Your Son’s Passion, death and resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sharing of God’s peace.

OFFERTORY “Sweet Hour of Prayer”

1. Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! That calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father's throne, make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter's snare by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

2. Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! The joys I feel, the bliss I share
Of those whose anxious spirits burn with strong desires for thy return!
With such I hasten to the place where God my Savior shows his face,
And gladly take my station there, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!
3. Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! Thy wings shall my petition bear
To Him whose truth and faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since He bids me seek His face, believe His word, and trust His grace,
I'll cast on Him my every care, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

LORD'S PRAYER

Please see PowerPoint or back of hymnal.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Congregation: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN “Our Savior Speaks in Love” [TUNE: *LSB 424*]

Our Savior speaks in love, from deepest agony.
Oh, hear the message from above; His great compassion see.

“Father, into Your hands my spirit I commend.”
And He who hears and understands receives Him at the end.

Our Savior speaks; may we give heed to ev’ry word,
And grace be given faithfully to trust what we have heard.

Acknowledgments:

Portions of the service are adapted from: *“Words that Last Forever!”* by Arden Mead
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“7 for LIFE”

3 Opportunities to Go Deeper:

Maundy Thursday:

“For You!” (Thursday, April 6, 7:00 p.m.)

Good Friday:

“Finished!” (Friday, April 7, Noon & 7:00 p.m.)

Easter Sunday:

**“Alleluia” (Easter Sunrise: 6:00 am &
Easter Morning: 10:30 a.m.)**