
THE SEVEN LAST WORDS

As Christ was suspended between heaven and earth on Good Friday, He spoke seven times, as we have it recorded in what is generally called, THE SEVEN LAST WORDS.

In the FIRST WORD, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do," we notice a forgiving spirit, even unto His enemies — a spirit that could only have its basis in love.

The SECOND WORD, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise," reveals, as in a short summary, the whole riches and the glory of the redemption — a happy promise to the penitent soul.

The THIRD is the last uttered to man. "Behold thy son . . . behold thy mother." In other words, "From now on, mother. I belong not to you; I belong to every one. All believers in me belong to the family of God."

The FOURTH, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" reveals Christ's experience of hell on the cross. In that experience, atonement was made for our sins.

"I thirst," was the FIFTH WORD. It was the physical thirst resulting from the bodily suffering in hell. We also see the deeper spiritual thirst of longing to be with the Father, and thirst for souls for whom He suffered.

The SIXTH, "It is finished," was the cry of joy. The body had done its last task, the descent into hell. He had obeyed God and fulfilled the scriptures. The atonement for our sins was complete.

The SEVENTH and final WORD, "Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit," is a resigned prayer. With His earthly task done, he commits Himself to the Father to carry on. "Jesus goes out; God goes on."

CHURCHES PARTICIPATING IN THE SERVICE

Bethesda Lutheran Church
Newfolden Luth. Free Church Parish
Evangelical Free Church, Newfolden

Rev. E. J. Raaum
Rev. E. J. Vick

UNION WORSHIP SERVICE

FOR

GOOD FRIDAY



HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

Newfolden, Minnesota

April 11, 1952

8:00 P. M.

Program

Prelude Mr. A. O. Gudim

Hymn Audience

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross
The emblem of suffering and shame,
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

Chorus:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.

In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see,
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,
To pardon and sanctify me.

To the old rugged cross, I will ever be true.
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share.

Devotion Rev. E. J. Vick

Ladies' Quartet Selected
Mmes. Loren Jorgenson, Birger Andeen, Selmer Anderson
and Lowell Hogberg

Hymn Audience

O Sacred Head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns, Thine only crown;
O Sacred Head, what glory,
What bliss, till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call Thee mine.

What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered
Was all for sinners' gain;
Mine, mine was the transgression,
But Thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior!
'Tis I deserve Thy place;
Look on me with Thy favor,
Vouchsafe to me Thy grace.

What language shall I borrow
To thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow,
Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever;
And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never,
Outlive my love to Thee.

Message Dr. John Stensvaag
Professor of Old Testament at Augsburg Seminary, Minneapolis, Minn.

Ladies' Trio Selected
Arloine Anderson, Beulah Hanson and Verna Solum

OFFERING TO THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

Solo Selected
Yvonne Lind

Hymn Audience

Jesus, keep me near the Cross,
There a precious fountain
Free to all—a healing stream,
Flows from Calvary's mountain.

Chorus:

In the Cross, In the Cross,
Be my glory ever;
Till my raptured soul shall find
Rest beyond the river.

Near the Cross! O Lamb of God,
Bring its scenes before me;
Help me walk from day to day,
With its shadows o'er me.

Near the Cross I'll watch and wait,
Hoping, trusting ever,
Till I reach the golden strand,
Just beyond the river.

Benediction Rev. E. J. Raalum

Postlude Mr. A. O. Gudim
