



February 28, 2024 - Third Midweek Lenten Service

Words That Last Forever

“Words That Last Forever” is the theme for our Midweek Lenten Services. We will listen to Jesus as He speaks from the cross 2000 years ago. And we will ponder the meaning of His words for our own lives in the 21st century.

Luke 23:34 “Forsaken”

Welcome

Hymn: “With Words That Last Forever” (*Melody 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—Responsive Litany

Pastor: Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

People: **“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”**

Pastor: The word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God.

People: **“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”**

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

People: **“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”**

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

People: **“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”**

Pastor: “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.”

People: **“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”**

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Almighty God, your steadfast love endures forever and you will never forsake your own. Lead your people in paths of righteousness for your name's sake, that we may dwell in your house forever. Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

First Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:19-21

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:1-11

Pastor: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

People: I have cried desperately for help, but still it does not come.

Pastor: During the day I call to you, my God, but you do not answer.

People: I call at night, but get no rest.

Pastor: But you are enthroned as the Holy One, the one whom Israel praises. Our ancestors put their trust in you; they trusted you, and you saved them.

People: They called to you and escaped from danger; they trusted you and were not disappointed.

Pastor: But I am a worm and not human, despised and scorned by everyone! All who see me make fun of me; they stick out their tongues and shake their heads.

People: "You relied on the Lord," they say. "Why doesn't he save you? If the Lord likes you, why doesn't he help you?"

Pastor: It was you who brought me safely through birth, and when I was a baby, you kept me safe.

People: I have relied on you since the day I was born, and you have always been my God.

Pastor: Do not stay away from me!

People: Trouble is near, and there is no one to help.

Gospel Reading: John 10:14-29

Jesus continued, "I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father." Again the Jews were divided because of these words. Many of them were saying, "He has a demon and is out of his mind. Why listen to him?" Others were saying, "These are not the words of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?" At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the

Messiah, tell us plainly.” Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: “Our Savior Speaks in Love” (*sung to LSB melody 431*)

Our Savior speaks in love To sinners in their need.

Oh, hear the message from above; His gracious promise heed.

Now hear the awful cry, Sin’s dreadful burden see:

“My God, my God,” the Son shouts, “Why Have you forsaken me?”

Our Savior speaks; may we Give heed to ev’ry word,

And grace be given faithfully To trust what we have heard.

Sermon: **Matthew 27:46 “Forsaken”**

Hymn: LSB 433 “Glory Be to Jesus”

Offerings

Prayers

Pastor: Jesus Christ sacrificed all in order that we might be ransomed to God. Through faith in him, let us join in fervent prayer:

People: **O God, forsake us not!**

Pastor: That brothers and sisters in the faith, here and everywhere, may be united in mind and will, and may work together in truth and harmony, let us join in fervent prayer:

People: **O God, forsake us not!**

Pastor: That the resources of this world may be used wisely so that none may perish needlessly and all may share the bounty of the Lord, let us join in fervent prayer:

People: **O God, forsake us not!**

Pastor: That those who feel especially alone because of sickness or circumstance, want or care, trouble or need, may feel God’s saving strength and know God’s presence near, let us join in fervent prayer:

People: **O God, forsake us not!**

Pastor: And that in our last hour on earth we may know the comfort of Christ’s forgiving sacrifice and the sure promise of everlasting joy with him and all the saints, let us join in fervent prayer:

People: **O God, forsake us not! Amen.**

Lord’s Prayer

All: **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.**

Benediction

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you his peace. The Lord will never leave you nor forsake you.

People: **Amen.**

Hymn: LSB 878 “Abide With Me” vs. 1, 2, & 6

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