



March 13, 2024 - Fifth 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.

John 19:30 "Finished"

Welcome

Hymn: LSB 883 "All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night"

Approaching the Word—Responsive Litany

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

People: "It is finished!"

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: "It is finished!"

Pastor: "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

People: "It is finished!"

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

People: "It is finished!"

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: "It is finished."

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: O God our Father, your love for sinners is boundless, sparing not even your only begotten Son as a sacrifice for sin. So motivate us by your grace and our Brother's selfless love for us that we may be bold to carry on the family name. We are sons and daughters of the God of grace. Make us gracious ... and graceful. Through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Philippians 1:2-6

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 36:5-10

Pastor: Lord, your constant love reaches to the heavens; your faithfulness extends to the skies.

People: **Your righteousness is towering like the mountains; your justice is like the depths of the sea. All creation is in your care.**

Pastor: How precious, O God, is your constant love!

People: **We find protection under the shadow of your wings. We feast on the abundant food you provide; you let us drink from the river of your goodness.**

Pastor: You are the source of all life, and because of your light we see the light.

People: **Continue to love those who know you and to do good to those who are righteous.**

Gospel Reading: John 17:1-14

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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!

Sermon: John 19:30 “Finished”

Theme 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.**

**“Tis finished,” says the Lord. The burden on him laid
Of sinful thought and deed and word—The debt is fully paid.**

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

Offerings

Prayers:

Pastor: God is faithful. God’s Holy Spirit will finish in us what was begun in Jesus Christ. Thus confident, let us join in fervent prayer:

People: **Complete what you have begun in us, O God.**

Pastor: That all who are called to follow Christ may continue to heed the Great Commission, engaged in making disciples of all nations, that people everywhere may believe and be saved, let us join in fervent prayer:

People: **Complete what you have begun in us, O God.**

Pastor: That all the world, with all its resources and opportunities, may show forth the praise of its generous Creator, let us join in fervent prayer:

People: **Complete what you have begun in us, O God.**

Pastor: That all who suffer in any way may find a quick and blessed end to what they must endure, let us join in fervent prayer:

People: **Complete what you have begun in us, O God.**

Pastor: That life on earth may find purpose in the love of Christ, and that life eternal, beyond the bonds of death, may open wide to welcome all who trust in Jesus Christ, let us join in fervent prayer:

People: **Complete what you have begun in us, O God.**

All: **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. You have been welcomed into the family of God.

People: Amen.

Hymn: LSB 436 "Go to Dark Gethsemane"

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