



March 20, 2024 - Sixth 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 19:28 "Thirst"

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: Jesus said, "I thirst."

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: Jesus said, "I thirst."

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

People: Jesus said, "I thirst."

Pastor: One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

People: Jesus said, "I thirst."

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: **Jesus said, “I thirst.”**

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: In water you call us, O God, to be your precious daughters and sons. Upon buoyant waters you saved Noah and his family. Through the blown-back waters of the Red Sea you delivered your children, Israel, from slavery. Your own Son, Jesus, who thirsted upon the cross, offers your living waters to all who believe in his name. Revive your people, O God, and refresh us, that we may bear witness to your wondrous love. Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading, Revelation 21:6; 22:1-2

Then the one who sat upon the throne said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.” Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 42:1-5, 8-11

Pastor: As a deer longs for a stream of cool water, so I long for you, O God.

People: **I thirst for you, the living God.**

Pastor: When can I go and worship in your presence?

People: **Day and night I cry, and tears are my only food.**

Pastor: My heart breaks when I remember the past, when I went with the crowds to the house of God and led them as they walked along, a happy crowd, singing and shouting praise to God.

People: **Why am I so sad? Why am I so troubled? I will put my hope in God, and once again, I will praise him, my savior and my God.**

Pastor: May the Lord show his constant love during the day, so that I may have a song at night, a prayer to the God of my life.

People: **To God, my defender, I say, “Why have you forgotten me? Why must I go on suffering from the cruelty of my enemies?”**

Pastor: I am crushed by their insults, as they keep on asking me, “Where is your God?”

People: **Why am I so sad? Why am I so troubled? I will put my hope in God, and once again, I will praise him, my savior and my God.**

Gospel Reading: John 4:1-14

Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, “Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John”—although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized—he left Judea and started back to Galilee. But he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked

him, and he would have given you living water.” The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?” Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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.**

**Obediently he dies; Sin’s pow’r has done its worst.
Now, to fulfill God’s Word, he cries A simple word: “I thirst.”**

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

Sermon: John 19:28 “Thirst”

Pastor Jake Sletten

Hymn: LSB 437 “Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”

Offerings

Prayers

Pastor: Like a good shepherd, our Lord leads us beside the still waters and restores our souls. Our cups run over. As those who follow where he leads, let us join in fervent prayer:

People: **Satisfy us with your overflowing grace, O God.**

Pastor: That the Church of God may be attuned to the needs of the world, especially those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, let us join in fervent prayer:

People: **Satisfy us with your overflowing grace, O God.**

Pastor: That governments and authorities may administer their responsibilities for the common good, as those who seek to fulfill the obligations of their office, let us join in fervent prayer:

People: **Satisfy us with your overflowing grace, O God.**

Pastor: That God’s grace may overflow into the lives of the hungry and thirsty, the homeless and helpless, the sick and the dying, the hurting and grieving, and all who want in any way, let us join in fervent prayer:

People: **Satisfy us with your overflowing grace, O God.**

Pastor: And that when our life on earth is done, the Lord may receive us into the glory of his saints and fulfill the faithful word by which he calls us to himself, let us join in fervent prayer:

People: **Satisfy us with your overflowing grace, 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. ForThine 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 has brought you through the waters to live with him forever.

People: Amen.

Hymn: LSB 433 "Glory Be to Jesus"

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