

Berea School of Theology on Internet

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The Seven Last Words of Jesus on the Cross



Ecumenical Good Friday Meditation

**THE SEVEN LAST
WORDS OF JESUS
ON THE CROSS**



“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do”	Luke 23: 34
“Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”	Luke 23: 43
Speaking to John and Mary, “Woman, behold your son! ... Behold your mother!”	John 19: 26, 27
“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”	Matthew 27: 46 Mark 15: 34
“I thirst!”	John 19: 28
“It is finished!”	John 19: 30
“Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.”	Luke 23: 46

The Lord be with you.

Jesus’ crucifixion on Calvary was a final step in a work that had been going on in Him for thirty-three years, and when He arose from the dead the third day, He was entirely free in mind and body with all its limitations. He had now overcome all the carnal tendencies that He had taken on that He might free humanity from its bondage.

Jesus came proclaiming, “I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life”; “I came that they may have life, and may have it abundantly”; “I am the bread of life... which cometh down out of heaven, that a man eat thereof, and not die.”

The Apostle Paul to the Philippians 2: 5-11.

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming into the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (*Philippians 2: 5-11*)

This beautiful and profound passage reveals to us Christ as our pattern. Christ in His humiliation from the cradle of Bethlehem to the Cross at Calvary, for us today “Good Friday”. In addition, His exaltation at the Resurrection Day, “Easter” and further His ascension into eternity. Christ did not please Himself, but was obedient unto death, even the death of the cross, who is now exalted and has a name which is above every other name.

There are seven steps which lead down deeper and deeper, even to the death of the cross; and, there are seven steps which lead up higher and higher.

His Humiliation

1. He thought it not robbery to be equal with God.
2. He humbled Himself.
3. He became a servant.
4. He was made in the likeness of man.
5. He was found in fashion as a man.
6. He became obedient.
7. Obedient to the death.

His Exaltation

1. God highly exalted Him.
2. Gave Him the Name above every name.
3. Every knee is to bow at His name.
4. Things in heaven must acknowledge Him.
5. Things on earth.
6. Things under the earth.
7. Every tongue must confess Him as Lord.

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.” In everyone who believes in Jesus Christ is the Spirit of Christ, not that we should be imitators of Christ, but that His own life may be reproduced in us. We have this mind of Christ in the divine nature. What a wonderful grace that we are called with such a calling, to be in His fellowship and follow His own path! Having delivered us from guilt and condemnation we are called to walk even as He walked down here, the author and finisher of our faith.

He who gave up the glory, He came down to become an obedient servant. He was obedient unto death, the death of the cross. Wonderful condescension and love. And, it was all for our sake. Redeemed by His precious blood, called into His own fellowship, His way must become ours; we are to follow Him.

“Learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you shall find rest for your souls.”

Good Friday! Before Pilate, Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah, Christ, is being accused as a perverter of the nation and an enemy of the Roman government. They had attempted to ensnare Him with the question of the tribute money and failed so miserably in it. Their motive stands now uncovered. Pilate asks Him concerning His Kingship, which the Lord answered affirmatively. So, He witnessed to two facts, His Sonship and His Kingship. The Evangelist Luke tells us what Matthew and Mark omit, that Pilate sent Him to Herod. The silence of Jesus standing before the wicked king is very solemn. Then He is

mocked by Herod and his soldiers. Herod and Pilate became united in rejecting Christ. The weakling Pilate is helpless. Their words prevail. "Away with this man"; release unto us Barabbas!" – "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" These are the cries now heard. Pilate then gave the awful sentence, that it should be done to Him as they required. The way to Calvary has now begun, the lamenting of women are now heard, frail women were moved to pity, but Jesus did not look for sympathy from anyone. And, when they reached the place called "Calvary" (the skull), they crucified Him, hanging there between heaven and earth for our sins to be washed away. Now, gradually, the seven last words of Jesus will be heard.

The **Seven Last "Words" of Jesus Christ** from the cross are actually seven short phrases that Jesus uttered on Calvary's Cross that serve as an excellent "Good Friday" meditation. To find all of the seven last words of Jesus Christ, one must read all the gospels since none of the evangelists records all seven last words. The sayings would have been originally uttered by Jesus in the Aramaic language, but only one of the last seven words of Jesus is preserved for us in the original Aramaic, namely "*Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani*" or "*My God, My God, why have you forsaken me,*" which is actually a direct quotation of the opening verse of Psalm 22. The rest of the seven last words of Jesus are found in the gospels after having been translated into Greek by the four Evangelists. For centuries, these seven last words of Jesus have been also used as meditation points for spiritual conferences, retreats, and Lenten missions. They are particularly wonderful to use for prayer on Good Friday, and indeed the Holy Week.

The First Word:

**"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they are doing."
(Luke 23:34)**

The Evangelist Luke tells us of the blessed prayer of our Lord which Matthew and Mark omit, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." As soon as Christ was nailed to the cross, He prayed for those who crucified Him. However, we too are forgiven through Christ. He died to purchase for us the forgiveness of sin. Because

Christ died on the cross for us, we are cleansed from all wickedness, from every last sin. We are united with God the Father as his beloved children. We are free to approach his throne of grace with our needs and concerns. God "has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west" (Ps 103:13).

Let us pray: (for the Holy Church)

Let us pray for our Holy Old Catholic Church

Almighty, ever-living God, who in Christ hast revealed thy glory to all nations, keep safe what thy loving-kindness has achieved; and grant that thy Church, spread over the whole world, may persevere with steadfast faith in bearing witness to thy name: through the same Lord. Amen.

The Second Word:

"I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:43)

Jesus was crucified between two thieves; in them were shown the different effects the cross of Jesus Christ would have upon us all in the preaching of the gospel. One malefactor remained hardened. No troubles will change a wicked heart. The other was softened, he was snatched as a brand out of the burning, and made a monument of Divine mercy. It is certain that true repentance is never too late, even on death-beds; but it is as certain that late repentance is seldom true. None can be sure they shall have time to repent at death, but every man may be sure he cannot have the advantages this penitent thief had. He reproved the other thief for railing on Christ; while he owned that he deserved what was done to him. He believed Jesus to have suffered wrongfully. Observe his faith in his prayer. Christ was in the depth of disgrace, suffering as a deceiver, and not delivered by His Father. The repenting malefactor made his profession before the wonders were displayed which put honour on Christ's suffering and startled the centurion. He believed in a life to come, and desired to be happy in that life. Not like the other thief, to be only saved from the cross. His only request, "Lord, remember me". He was humbled in

true repentance, while Christ is gracious upon the cross as He is now on His throne in heaven. By this act of grace we are to understand that Jesus Christ died to open the kingdom of heaven to all penitent, to all believers.

Let us pray: (for the Archbishop)

Let us pray for the Archbishop.

Almighty, ever-living God, by whose decree all things are established, listen favourably to our prayers, and in thy loving-kindness preserve the Archbishop chosen for us. So may the Christian people, ruled by thy authority, under this pontiff increase in faith and merit: through our Lord. Amen.

The Third Word: Speaking to John and Mary, “Woman, behold your son! ... Behold your mother!” (John 19: 26-27)

As Jesus was dying, his mother was among those who had remained with him. Most of the male disciples had fled, with the exception of one whom the Fourth Gospel calls "the disciple he loved." We cannot be exactly sure of the identity of this beloved disciple, though many interpreters believe he is John, who is also the one behind the writing of this Gospel.

No matter who the beloved disciple was, it is clear that Jesus was forging a relationship between this disciple and his mother, one in which the disciple would take care of Mary financially and in other ways. Jesus wanted to make sure she would be in good hands after his death.

The presence of Mary at the cross adds both humanity and horror to the scene. We are reminded that Jesus was a real human being, a man who had once been a boy who had once been carried in the womb of his mother. Even as he was dying on the cross as the Saviour of the world, Jesus was also a son, a role he never neglected even in his last moments.

When we think of the crucifixion of Jesus from the perspective of his mother, our horror increases dramatically. The death of a child is one of the most painful of all parental experiences. To watch one's beloved child experience the extreme torture of crucifixion must have been unimaginably terrible. We are also reminded of the prophecy of Simeon shortly after Jesus' birth, when he said to Mary: "And a sword will pierce your very soul" (Luke 2:35).

Let us pray: (For all Orders and Ranks of the Faithful)

Let us pray for all bishops, priests, deacons, subdeacons, acolytes, exorcists, readers, door-keepers, for all who witness to the faith, ministers and evangelists, for all women wedded or unwedded who are consecrated to the service of God, and for all God's holy people.

Almighty, everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is sanctified and guided, heed our petition for all ranks within her, that, by the gift of thy grace, all in their several stations may give thee faithful service: through our Lord Jesus Christ, in the unity of the same Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Fourth Word:

“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Matthew 27: 46, Mark 15: 34)

During the three hours which the darkness continued, Jesus was in agony, wrestling with the powers of darkness, and suffering his Father's displeasure against the sin of man, for which he was now making his soul an offering. Never were there three such hours since the day God created, his image and likeness upon the earth; never such a dark and awful scene; it was the turning point of that great affair, man's redemption and salvation. Jesus uttered a complaint from Psalm 22:1, “My God, my God, why have You forsaken me, and are far from my deliverance, and from the words of my groaning?” Hereby he teaches of what use the Word of God is to direct us in prayer, and recommends the use of the Holy Scriptures expressions in prayer. The believer may have tasted some drops of bitterness, but he can only form a very feeble idea of the greatness of Christ's

sufferings. Yet, he learns something of the Saviour's love for sinners, and what he owes to Christ, who delivers him from the wrath to come. The effects of the gospel, when faithfully preached, and truly believed, in changing the tempers and characters of mankind, form a constant proof, a miraculous proof, that the gospel is the power of God for our salvation, and of all who believe.

Let us pray: (For the Rulers of States)

Let us pray for the Rulers of State.

Almighty, everlasting God, in whose hand lie all governments and the rights of every nation, look graciously upon our rulers, so that all over the world religion and the peace of nations may stand for ever whole and unimpaired under the shelter of thy hand: through our Lord Jesus Christ, thy Son, who lives and reigns with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Fifth Word:

“I thirst!” (John 19: 28)

As all human being would do, Jesus experienced extreme thirst while being crucified. All the way through the streets of Jerusalem up to the mount Golgotha (Calvary), he would have lost a substantial quantity of bodily fluid, blood and sweat, through what he had endured from the mount Gethsemane onwards until his crucifixion. Therefore, His statement “I am thirsty” was, on the most obvious level, a demand for some drink. In response the soldiers gave him wine as sour as vinegar (verse 29), a cheap beverage in use among lower class people in the time of Jesus.

John notes that Jesus said, “I am thirsty,” not only as a statement of a physical necessity, but also that the prophecies of the Holy Scriptures, at that time the Old Testament might be fulfilled, as found in Psalm 69: 21. “And in My thirst they gave Me vinegar to drink.”

As Jesus suffered, he embodied the pain of the people of Israel, as found in the Psalms, but also of the whole world. Many things done

by the Roman soldiers were fulfilments of the prophecies of the Old Testament.

Jesus was hung for us on the Cross, that we might escape the eternal rejection from the God of Love. Now was the Son of Man, the Son of God, delivered into the hands of the wicked and unreasonable men.

It is good for everyone with faith, to behold Christ Jesus in His sufferings, and reflect on His statement, "I am thirsty". Ours, is nothing as that of Jesus, rather, I am thirsty for Him. My soul yearns for the living water supplied by Jesus. He suffered first thirst on the cross, so that my thirst for the water of life might be quenched. Let us read a few verses from the Gospel of John:

Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that says to you, Give Me to drink, you would have asked of Him, and He would have given you living water." (John 4: 10)

He who believes on Me, as the Scripture has said, "Out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." (But He spoke this about the Spirit, which they who believed on Him should receive; for *the* Holy Spirit was not yet given , because Jesus was not yet glorified.) (John 7: 38-39)

Let us pray: (For those under instruction)

Let us pray also for those among us who are under instruction that our God and Lord may open their hearts and the door of his mercy, so that with all their sins forgiven and washed away in the waters of spiritual rebirth, they too may abide in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Almighty, ever-living God, who ever makest thy Church fruitful with new offspring, increase faith and understanding in those among us who are under instruction, so that being reborn in the waters of baptism they may be numbered with thy adopted sons and daughters: through our Lord. Amen.

The Sixth Word: "It is finished!" (John 19:30)

Let us reverently and deeply in mind and heart observe the dying word wherewith Jesus breathed out his soul. "It is finished", that is the counsels of the Father concerning Jesus' sufferings now being fulfilled. "It is finished", all the types and prophecies of the Old Testament, which pointed out the sufferings of the Messiah, were duly accomplished. "It is finished", the ceremonial law is abolished; the substance is now come, and all the shadows are done away. "It is finished"; an end is made of transgression by bringing in an everlasting righteousness. His sufferings were now finished both those of his soul, and of his body. "It is finished", the work of man's redemption and salvation is now completed. His life was not taken from him by force, but freely given up.

Jesus accomplished what we never could, taking our sins upon himself and giving us his life in return. Jesus finished that for which he had been sent, and we are the receivers of his unique effort. Because of what he finished, you and I are never "finished." We have hope for this life and for the next. We know that nothing can separate us from Love of God. One day what God has begun in us will also be finished, by his grace. Until that day, we live in the confidence of Jesus' cry of victory: "It is finished!"

Let us pray: (For the needs of the faithful)

Dearly beloved, let us pray God the almighty Father to cleanse the world from error; banish disease; ward off famine; open prisons; and destroy all bondage; granting to travellers a safe return, to the sick health, and to sailors a quiet haven.

Almighty, everlasting God, comfort of those who mourn, support of those in distress, may the prayers of those who cry to thee in any trouble reach thy ear, and may they all rejoice that thy loving care has been with them in their hour of need: through our Lord. Amen.

The Seventh Word: “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.” (Luke 23: 46)

We have here the death of Christ magnified by the wonders that attended it; and his death explained by the words with which he breathed out his soul. Let us, we ourselves, glorify God by true repentance and conversion; by protesting against those who crucify even today our Saviour; by a sober, righteous, and godly life; and by utilising our talents in the service of Him who died for us and rose again. The Son of Man, the Son of God cried with a loud voice ere He dismissed His spirit and the centurion, in keeping with this Gospel, bears witness, that He, our Lord and Saviour, was a righteous man.

Let us pray: (For those who do not yet believe in Christ)

Let us pray for those who do not yet believe in Christ, that the light of the Holy Spirit may fill them too, and enable them to enter upon the way of salvation.

Almighty, ever-living God, who hast committed all nations to the care of thy beloved Son, bring the families of all mankind into thy Church’s fold, so that they too may seek the light of truth and find their way to thee, the true and only God: through our Lord. Amen

I, sinner, deny my ego-centric self that I may unite myself through yielding faith to Jesus Christ, Lord and Saviour, who died for us all on the cross, and rose again the third day. I give up the mortal that I may attain the immortal. I disband the thought of the physical body as the only reality, that I may realise the spiritual body, my united self, soul, mind and body, the mental process with a physical effect.

I affirm: “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.”

Hymn: “Be still in the presence of the Lord.”

Be Still

**BE STILL FOR THE PRESENCE OF THE
LORD, THE HOLY ONE IS HERE.
COME, BOW BEFORE HIM NOW, WITH
REVERENCE AND FEAR.
IN HIM NO SIN IS FOUND, WE STAND ON
HOLY GROUND.
BE STILL, FOR THE PRESENCE OF THE
LORD, THE HOLY ONE IS HERE.**

**BE STILL, FOR THE GLORY OF THE LORD
IS SHINING ALL AROUND;
HE BURNS WITH HOLY FIRE, WITH
SPLENDOUR HE IS CROWNED.
HOW AWESOME IS THE SIGHT, OUR
RADIANT KING OF LIGHT!
BE STILL FOR THE GLORY OF THE LORD
IS SHINING ALL AROUND.**

**BE STILL, FOR THE POWER OF THE LORD
IS MOVING IN THIS PLACE,
HE COMES TO CLEANSE AND HEAL, TO
MINISTER HIS GRACE.
NO WORK TOO HARD FOR HIM, IN FAITH
RECEIVE FROM HIM;
BE STILL, FOR THE POWER OF THE LORD
IS MOVING IN THIS PLACE**

Let us pray again before we dismiss in silence:

Merciful God, who made all men and hate nothing that you have made: you desire not the death of a sinner but rather that he would be converted and live. Have mercy upon your ancient people the Jews, and upon all who have not known you, or who deny the faith of Christ crucified; take from them all ignorance, hardness of heart, and contempt for your word, and so fetch them home to your fold that they may be made one flock under one shepherd; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Benediction:

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

The Appropriated Gospel Readings:

**The Gospel portions around the crucifixion of
Our Lord Jesus Christ (NKJV)**

The Gospel according to Matthew – Chapter 23

- 1 ¶ And *it* becoming early morning, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put Him to death.
- 2 And when they had bound Him, they led *Him* away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor.
- 3 Then he who had betrayed Him, seeing that He was condemned, sorrowing, Judas returned the thirty pieces of silver again to the chief priests and elders,
- 4 saying, I have sinned, betraying innocent blood. And they said, What *is that* to us? You see *to that* .

5 And he threw the pieces of silver down in the temple and departed. And he went and hanged himself.

6 And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because it is *the* price of blood.

7 And they took counsel and bought the potter's field with them, to bury strangers in.

8 Therefore that field was called, The Field of Blood, to this day.

9 Then that which was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of Him who had been priced, whom they of the children of Israel valued,

10 and gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord appointed me."

11 ¶ And Jesus stood before the governor. And the governor asked Him, saying, Are you the king of the Jews? And Jesus said to him, You say *it* .

12 And when He was accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing.

13 Then Pilate said to Him, Do you not hear how many things they witness against you?

14 And He did not answer him a word, so that the governor greatly marveled.

15 Now at *that* feast the governor was accustomed to release to the people a prisoner, whomever they desired.

16 And they then had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas.

17 Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said to them, Whom do you desire that I release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus *who is* called Christ?

18 For he knew they had delivered Him because of envy.

19 But as he was sitting down on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, Have nothing to do with that just man, for today because of Him I have suffered many things in a dream.

20 But the chief priests and elders persuaded the crowd that they should ask *for* Barabbas and destroy Jesus.

21 The governor answered and said to them, Which of the two do you desire that I release *to* you? They said, Barabbas.

22 Pilate said to them, What then shall I do with Jesus, who is called Christ? *They* all said to him, Let Him be crucified.

23 And the governor said, Why? What evil has He done? But they cried out the more, saying, let Him be crucified!

24 But when Pilate saw that it gained nothing, but rather *that* a tumult was made, he took water and washed *his* hands before the crowd, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person. You see to it.

25 Then all the people answered and said, Let His blood *be* on us and on our children.

26 ¶ Then he released Barabbas to them. And when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered *Him* to be crucified.

27 Then taking Jesus into the praetorium, the soldiers of the governor gathered

the cohort against Him.

28 And stripping Him, they put a scarlet robe around Him.

29 And plaiting a crown of thorns, they put *it* on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!

30 And spitting at Him, *they* took the reed and struck at His head.

31 And after they had mocked Him, they took the robe off of Him and put His own clothing on Him and led Him away to crucify *Him* .

32 And going out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They forced this one to carry His cross.

33 ¶ And coming to a place called Golgotha, which is called, Place of a Skull, 34 they gave Him vinegar mixed with gall to drink. And when He had tasted, He would not drink.

35 And they crucified Him, dividing His garments, casting a lot; so that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, "They parted My garments among them, and they cast a lot for My clothing."

36 And sitting down they guarded Him there.

37 And they put up over His head His accusation, written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

38 Then two thieves were crucified with Him, one off *the* right, one off *the* left.

39 And those who passed by blasphemed Him, shaking their heads,

40 and saying, *You* destroying the temple and building *it* in three days, save yourself. If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.

41 And in the same way also the chief priests mocked, with the scribes and elders, saying,

42 He saved others, but he cannot save himself. If he is the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him.

43 He trusted in God, let Him deliver him now, if He will have him. (For He said, I am *the* Son of God.)

44 And also the thieves who were crucified with Him reviled Him, *saying* the same.

45 And from *the* sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until *the* ninth hour.

46 And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? That is, My God, My God, why have You forsaken me?

47 Some of those who stood there, when they heard, said, This one calls for Elijah.

48 And immediately one of them ran and took a sponge and filled it with vinegar, and he put *it* on a reed and gave it to Him to drink.

49 The rest said, Let Him alone, let us see whether Elijah will come to save Him.

50 ¶ And crying again with a loud voice, Jesus released *His* spirit.

51 And, behold! The veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. And

the earth quaked, and the rocks were sheared,
52 and the tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen
asleep arose,
53 and coming out of the tomb after His resurrection *they* went into the holy city
and appeared to many.
54 But the centurion and those guarding Jesus, seeing the earthquake, and the
things that took place, *they* feared greatly, saying, Truly this One was Son of
God.
55 And many of the women were there, watching from a distance, *those* who
had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him, watching from a distance;
56 among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and
Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's children.

The Gospel according to Mark – Chapter 15

1 ¶ And immediately in the morning the chief priests held a consultation with
the elders and scribes and the whole council. And they bound Jesus and led *Him*
away and delivered *Him* to Pilate.
2 And Pilate asked Him, Are you the king of the Jews? And answering He said
to him, You say *it* .
3 And the chief priests accused Him *of* many things, but He answered nothing.
4 And Pilate asked Him again, saying, Do you answer nothing? Behold how
many things they witness against you!
5 But Jesus still answered nothing, so that Pilate marvelled.
6 And at *that* feast he released to them one prisoner, whomever they desired.
7 And there was *one* named Barabbas, bound with the insurgents, who had
committed murder in the insurrection.
8 And the crowd, crying aloud, began to beg *him to do* as he had always done to
them.
9 But Pilate answered them, saying, Do you desire that I release to you the King
of the Jews?
10 For he knew that the chief priests had delivered Him because of envy.
11 But the chief priests moved the people that he should rather release Barabbas
to them.
12 And Pilate answered and said again to them, What then do you desire that I
should do *to him* whom you call the King of the Jews?
13 And they cried out again, Crucify him!
14 Then Pilate said to them, Why? What evil has he done? And they much more
cried out, Crucify him!
15 ¶ And deciding to do the easiest *to* the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to
them, and having scourged *Him* , delivered up Jesus to be crucified.
16 And the soldiers led Him away inside the court, which is *the* praetorium. And

they called together all the cohort.

17 And they clothed Him with purple and plaited a crown of thorns and put it around His *head* .

18 And they began to salute Him, Hail, King of the Jews!

19 And they struck Him on the head with a reed, and spat on Him, and placing the knees, *they* bowed to Him.

20 And when they had mocked Him, they took the purple off Him and put His own clothes on Him and led Him out to crucify Him.

21 And they made one who was passing by, Simon a Cyrenian, coming out of the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to bear His cross.

22 ¶ And they brought Him to Golgotha Place (which translated is, Place of a Skull).

23 And they gave Him wine mixed with myrrh to drink. But He did not take *it* .

24 And when they had crucified Him, they divided His garments, casting lots on them, as, to what *each* should take.

25 And it was *the* third hour, and they crucified Him.

26 And the inscription of His accusation was written over *Him* , THE KING OF THE JEWS.

27 And with Him they crucified two thieves, the one off *the* right, and one off *the* left.

28 And the Scripture was fulfilled which said, "And he was numbered with *the* lawless."

29 And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, Aha! You *razing* the temple and building *it* in three days,

30 save yourself and come down from the cross!

31 And also the chief priests mocking, with the scribes, said to one another, He saved others but he cannot save himself.

32 Let Christ the King of Israel now come down from the cross, so that we may see and believe. And they who were crucified with Him insulted Him.

33 ¶ And *it* being *the* sixth hour, darkness came over all the land until the ninth hour.

34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? (which being translated is, My God, My God, why did You forsake Me?)

35 And hearing, some of those standing by said, Behold, he calls Elijah.

36 And one ran and filled a sponge full of vinegar and put *it* on a reed and gave *it* to him to drink. *But they said* , Let alone, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down.

37 And letting out a loud voice, Jesus expired.

38 And the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

39 And when the centurion, who stood across from him, saw that He cried out so, *and* expired, he said, Truly this man was Son of God.

40 And also women were watching from a distance, among whom also was

Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the less, and of Joses, and Salome,

41 (who also, when He was in Galilee, followed Him and ministered to Him), and many *other* women who came up with Him to Jerusalem.

42 ¶ And it, becoming evening already, since it was *the* Preparation, that is, *the* day before sabbath,

43 Joseph of Arimathea, an honorable counsellor, who also waited for the kingdom of God, came and went in boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

44 And Pilate wondered if He were already dead. And calling the centurion, he asked him whether He had died already.

45 And when he knew *it* from the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph.

46 And he bought a linen cloth, and took Him down, and wrapped *Him* in the linen, and laid Him in a tomb which was cut out of a rock, and rolled a stone to the door of the tomb.

47 And Mary Magdalene and Mary *the mother* of Joses saw where He was laid.

The Gospel according to Luke – Chapter 23

1 ¶ And rising up, all the multitude of them led Him before Pilate.

2 And they began to accuse Him, saying, We have found this one perverting the nation and forbidding them to give tribute to Caesar, saying himself to be a king, Christ.

3 And Pilate asked Him, saying, Are you the king of the Jews? And He answered him and said, You say *it* .

4 And Pilate said to the chief priests and *to* the people, I find no fault in this man.

5 And they were the more fierce, saying, He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee to this place.

6 And hearing Galilee, Pilate asked if the man is a Galilean.

7 And knowing that He belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who himself was also at Jerusalem at that time.

8 And seeing Jesus, Herod greatly rejoiced, for he had desired to see Him *for* a long *time* , because he had heard many things about Him. And he hoped to see some miracle done by Him.

9 And he questioned Him in many words, but He answered him nothing.

10 And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused Him.

11 And humiliating Him with his guardsmen, and mocking *Him* by putting luxurious clothing around Him, Herod sent Him again to Pilate.

12 And that same day Pilate and Herod became friends with one another, for before they were at enmity *between* themselves.

13 ¶ And when he had called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people,

14 Pilate said to them, You have brought this Man to me as perverting the people. And behold, having examined *Him* before you, I have found no fault in this Man *regarding those things* of which you accuse Him;
15 no, nor even Herod, for I sent you to him, and lo, nothing worthy of death has been done by Him.
16 Therefore I will chastise Him and release *Him* .
17 (For it was necessary for him to release one to them at the feast.)
18 And they all cried out at once, saying, Away with this One! And release to us Barabbas
19 (who was thrown into prison because of a certain sedition made in the city, and for murder).
20 And Pilate, willing to release Jesus, spoke again to them.
21 But they cried, saying, Crucify! Crucify Him!
22 And he said to them the third *time* , Why? What evil has He done? I have found no cause of death in Him, therefore I will chastise Him and let *Him* go.
23 But they pressed *on him* , with loud voices, requesting that He might be crucified. And their voices and those of the chief priests prevailed.
24 And Pilate gave judgment that their request should be granted.
25 And he released to them *the one* who had been thrown into prison for sedition and murder, for whom they had asked. But he delivered up Jesus to their will.
26 ¶ And as they led Him away, they laid hold on one Simon, a Cyrenian, coming out of the country. And they laid the cross on him, that he might carry *it* after Jesus.
27 And a great multitude of people were following Him, and of women who also were bewailing and lamenting Him.
28 But turning to them, Jesus said, Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.
29 For behold, the days are coming in which they shall say, Blessed *are* the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts which did not suckle.
30 And they shall begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us! And to the hills, Cover us!
31 For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?
32 ¶ And two others, two criminals, were led with Him to be put to death.
33 And when they came to the place which is called Calvary, they crucified Him and the criminals there, one on *the* right, and one on *the* left.
34 And Jesus said, Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do. And parting His clothing, they cast lots.
35 And the people stood watching. And also the rulers with them, scoffing, saying, He saved others, let Him save Himself, if He is the Christ, the chosen of God.
36 And coming near, the soldiers also mocked Him, and offering Him sour wine,

37 and saying, If You are the king of the Jews, save Yourself.
38 And an inscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek and Latin and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.
39 And one of the hanged criminals blasphemed Him, saying, If you are Christ, save Yourself and us.
40 But answering, the other rebuked him, saying, Do you not fear God, since *you* are in the same condemnation.
41 And we indeed justly so, for we receive the due reward of our deeds, but this Man has done nothing amiss.
42 And he said to Jesus, Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.
43 And Jesus said to him, Truly I say to you, Today you shall be with Me in Paradise.
44 ¶ And it was about *the* sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until *the* ninth hour.
45 And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in the middle.
46 And crying with a loud voice, Jesus said, Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit. And when He had said this, He breathed out the spirit.
47 And when the centurion saw what had been done, he glorified God, saying, Truly this Man was righteous.
48 And all the crowd arriving together at this sight, beholding the things happening, struck their breasts and returned.
49 And all those known to Him stood at a distance; and *the* women, those accompanying Him from Galilee, *were* seeing these things.
50 ¶ And behold, a man named Joseph, a councillor, a good man and a just one,
51 this one was not assenting to their counsel and deed. *He was* from Arimathea, a city of the Jews; and he also himself waited for the kingdom of God.
52 This *man* went to Pilate and begged the body of Jesus.
53 And he took it down and wrapped it in linen. And he laid it in a tomb that had been cut in the stone, in which no man had before been laid.
54 And that day was the Preparation, and the sabbath drew on.
55 And also women *were* following, who were accompanying Him out of Galilee, who watched the tomb, and how His body was placed.
56 And they returned and *they* prepared spices and ointment. And they rested *on* the sabbath day according to the commandment. (NKJV)

The Gospel according to John – Chapter 19

1 ¶ Then Pilate therefore took Jesus and flogged *Him* .
2 And the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns and put *it* on His head. And they put a purple robe on Him,
3 and said, Hail, King of the Jews! And they struck Him with their hands.
4 Then Pilate went out again and said to them, Behold, I bring him out to you so

that you may know that I find no fault in him.

5 Then Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And *Pilate* said to them, Behold the man!

6 Then when the chief priests and under-officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, Crucify! Crucify *Him* ! *Pilate* said to them, You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in him.

7 The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.

8 Then when *Pilate* heard that saying, he was the more afraid.

9 And *he* went again into the praetorium and said to Jesus, Where are you from? But Jesus gave him no answer.

10 Then *Pilate* said to him, Do you not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to crucify you, and I have authority to release you?

11 Jesus answered, You could have no authority against Me unless it were given to you from above. Therefore he who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.

12 From this *time* , *Pilate* sought to release Him. But the Jews cried out, saying, If you let this man go, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar.

13 Then when *Pilate* heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat at a place called the Pavement (but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha).

14 And it was *the* preparation of the Passover, and about *the* sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, Behold your king!

15 But they cried out, Away with *him* ! Away with *him* ! Crucify him! *Pilate* said to them, Shall I crucify your king? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar.

16 ¶ Then he delivered Him up to them that He might be crucified. And they took Jesus and led *Him* away.

17 And bearing His cross, He went out to a place called, *The Place* of a Skull (which is called in the Hebrew, Golgotha)

18 where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the middle.

19 ¶ And *Pilate* wrote a title and put *it* on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

20 Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin.

21 Then the chief priests of the Jews said to *Pilate*, Do not write, the king of the Jews, but that he said, I am king of the Jews.

22 *Pilate* answered, What I have written I have written.

23 Then when they had crucified Jesus, the soldiers took His garments and made four parts, one part to each soldier; and also *His* tunic. And the tunic was without seam, woven from the top throughout.

24 Therefore they said among themselves, Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to find whose it shall be (that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says, "They

parted my garments among them, and *for* my garment they cast lots"). Therefore the soldiers did these things.

25 And His mother stood by the cross of Jesus, and His mother's sister, Mary the *wife* of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

26 Then when Jesus saw *His* mother and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, Woman, behold your son!

27 Then He said to the disciple, Behold your mother! And from that hour that disciple took her into *his* own *home* .

28 After this, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, I thirst.

29 Then a vessel full of vinegar was set. And they filled a sponge with sour wine and put *it* upon hyssop, and put *it* to His mouth.

30 Then when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, It is finished! And He bowed *His* head and gave up the spirit.

31 ¶ Then the Jews, because it was Preparation, begged Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away, so that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the sabbath. For that sabbath was a high day.

32 Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who was crucified with Him.

33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.

34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side *with* a lance, and instantly there came out blood and water.

35 And he who saw bore record, and his record is true. And he knows that he speaks true, so that you might believe.

36 For these things were done so that the Scripture might be fulfilled, "Not a bone of Him shall be broken."

37 And again another Scripture says, "They shall look upon *Him* whom they pierced."

38 ¶ And after these things, Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus (but secretly for fear of the Jews) begged of Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus. And Pilate gave permission. Then he came and took the body of Jesus.

39 And Nicodemus also came, who at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds.

40 Then they took the body of Jesus and wound it with linens with the spices, as is the custom of the Jews to bury.

41 And in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one yet had been placed.

42 There, then, because of the Preparation of the Jews, because the tomb was near, they laid Jesus. (NKJV)

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